

ANNUAL REPORT



WESTHAMPTON MASSACHUSETTS

2007

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS**



**TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON**

**FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007**

DEDICATION

This year's annual Town report is dedicated to the Westhampton Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who have continued to serve the emergency medical needs of the residents within the community, helping to improve their quality of life and safety. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) have continued to be provided by a group of dedicated volunteers responding to the medical needs of the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These individuals provide the needed professional skills to stabilize and treat the medical needs of the residents until they are transported to a health care facility to receive more advanced or definitive care for any medical problem.

Thanks to the efforts and services provided by all of the Town's EMTs, the Town of Westhampton, through the State Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) and the American Heart Association (AHA), received the designation as a "HeartSafe Community". This makes the Town of Westhampton only one of twenty-eight in Western Massachusetts to receive this recognition. A community with this designation provides the most advanced pre-hospital care to citizens needing emergency services. This is done through a series of early access and recognition, timely administration of CPR (often administered by trained bystanders), a rapid response with electronic defibrillation and support therapy, and EMS providing advanced care including cardiac recognition, intravenous therapy, advanced airway placement, and medication administration.

This type of designation and recognition at the State level for a volunteer organization speaks volumes for the professionalism, character, and dedication of every member of the organization, past and present, and for the service that they provide. It is for all of this and more, we honor them and thank them with the dedication of this year's annual Town Report.

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

In 2007 the Selectboard spent time dealing with numerous issues, most notably with the Fire Department, working with the highway superintendent on road issues, and planning for construction of a handicap bathroom at Town Hall. The year began with James Huston (chairman), Brian Mulvehill (clerk), and Charles P. Norris serving as Selectboard members. Brian Mulvehill was elected to serve a second term at the June annual election. Following the election the board re-organized with Charles P. Norris filling the chairman's role and Brian Mulvehill remaining as clerk. Margaret Parsons continued to serve as the administrative assistant to the Selectboard.

At the end of 2006 Wayne Buzzee had retired as Fire Chief. At the first meeting in January the Selectboard met with members of the fire department in order to appoint an acting chief. The consensus of the fire department members was that Chris Norris should be appointed acting chief based upon his experience and willingness to do so. The Selectboard concurred and appointed Chris acting chief (Selectman Norris abstained from the vote) until May 2007.

In other fire department business, Jim Huston was designated as the Selectboard liaison to the fire department. As part of these duties Jim carries a fire department pager, giving him the ability to attend any major fire department calls, and he keeps the other Selectboard members updated on fire department matters. Acting Chief Norris also proposed a usage policy for the fire department's car which the Selectboard approved. That car is to be used for conducting inspections, attending training meetings and seminars, and for emergency calls.

As Chris's appointment as acting chief was nearing an end, the Selectboard did an "in-house" posting for the "permanent" fire chief's position. Two applications were received, including one from Chris. The Selectboard conducted interviews in May and appointed Chris Norris, removing the "acting" from his title.

Again, Selectman Norris abstained from the interview and appointment process.

In April, a nor'easter storm dumped some snow and much rain on the area, wreaking havoc on the town's roads and causing the Selectboard to declare a state of emergency. Roads sustaining heavy damage included Chesterfield Road, Northwest Road, Lyman Road, Kings Highway, Tob Road, and Laurel Hill Road. Governor Patrick declared a state of emergency for affected areas in Massachusetts, making Westhampton eligible for 75% reimbursement from FEMA. Our highway department performed most of the repairs themselves. An embankment on Kings Highway which slid down was one exception, and that work is scheduled to be contracted out in 2008. The Town ended up receiving approximately \$36,000 from FEMA for the repairs that were done and also received \$32,400 for the Kings Highway repair.

Other road issues the Selectboard dealt with were South Road and Hathaway Road. We finally saw some progress with the South Road project in 2007. The state passed a transportation bond bill last spring which included approximately \$3,500,000 for the reconstruction of South Road. A bid opening was held in June, and the project was awarded to Warner Bros./All States Asphalt of Sunderland, the low-bidder on the project. The work was scheduled to begin in spring 2008. We wish to thank former Highway Superintendent Richard Tracy for initially starting this federal and state-funded project, and also our current Highway Superintendent David Blakesley for finishing the numerous tasks needed to bring this project to fruition.

The Selectboard also continued to oversee the progress of the Hathaway Road reconstruction, which is being financed primarily by a Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) grant. There were some issues there with washouts in resident's yards following the April nor'easter, but these problems were addressed once the catch basins were completely installed, and

the base coat of asphalt and curbing were applied. The project is schedule to be completed in 2008.

Last spring, Ben Snape of Boy Scout Troop 209 was looking to perform a community service project in order to become an Eagle Scout. The Selectboard suggested an informational sign outside of Town Hall. Ben completed this project over the summer, and we now have a beautiful sign directing people to the Town Hall offices and informing people which town officers and boards meet in Town Hall. The sign fits in well with the historical and rural character of the town center. We thank Ben for a job well done!

High heating oil costs have had a major impact on the town budget for the past couple of years. Fortunately the Selectboard locked in a price of \$2.369 with Cernak Fuel for 10,000 gallons of oil for the Town Hall, Highway Department, Public Safety Building, and Library. This turned out to be well below the daily cash price which was over \$3.00 per gallon for most of the winter. Despite the savings for the 2007-08 fiscal year, these high heating costs will have a significant impact on the town budget in the near future.

The Selectboard and Police Department dealt with problems and complaints from neighbors at 95 Easthampton Road for much of the year. The problems included unregistered vehicles, loud parties, excessive trash in the yard, and numerous unrelated persons living there. Unregistered vehicle violations were twice issued and some problems still exist there into 2008.

The Selectboard continued the tradition of passing the gold cane to the oldest resident in Westhampton. In September it was passed on to Dot Loud of Southampton Road who is the honored resident at 96 years of age. The person recognized with this tradition must have lived in town for at least 25 years.

Construction of a handicap bathroom became a major goal of the Selectboard in 2007. This has been a requirement since the

Americans with Disabilities Act was passed into law in 1991, but the Town has never had the funds to accomplish it. Last year we sought the assistance of the Hilltown Community Development Corporation (HCDC) in accomplishing this goal. The Selectboard applied for Community Development Block Grant Funds to pay for the construction of this handicap bathroom, and the estimated cost is \$60,000. In 2007 the Selectboard approved \$3500 in town funds to pay for architecture services. It was decided to use the former office at the front of Town Hall for the new handicap bathroom. This office was formerly used by the Town Clerk and Police Department. Construction is expected to occur in 2008.

The Selectboard made the following appointments in 2007 outside of the regular annual appointments:

- Robert Turner to the Planning Board
- Ellen Bartos to the Open Space Committee
- Freeman Scott to the Historical Commission
- Steve Holt as an EMT
- Maryann Duggan as an EMT
- John Meehan to the Conservation Commission

The Selectboard received the following resignations in 2007:

- Clint Parsons from the Conservation Commission

Finally, the Selectboard would like to thank everyone who takes the time to serve the Town of Westhampton in any way. It takes the efforts of many to conduct town business. The Selectboard meets on alternate Mondays at 7:00 at Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome your views on town government and business.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles P. Norris, Chairman
Brian Mulvehill, Clerk
James Huston

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2007 as follows:

BIRTHS 13 6 Male 7 Female (includes 2 home births)

DEATHS 8

January 5, 2007	Jean W. Norris
March 1, 2007	Harold Benjamin Wood
March 18, 2007	John W. Lynes
September 4, 2007	Elaine M. Moggio
November 10, 2007	Norma J. Wilga
December 1, 2007	Frank L. Truehart
December 5, 2007	Earl R. Gett
December 31, 2007	Dorothy Loud

MARRIAGES 2

June 30, 2007 Richard Allen Small, Jr. and Susannah Lee Touchet
October 7, 2007 William Andrew Miller and Lorelei Elizabeth Nehring

DOG LICENSES FOR 2007:

8	Males	@8	\$ 64.00
50	Neutered Males	@4	\$200.00
0	Females	@8	\$ 0.00
67	Spayed Females	@4	\$268.00
5	Kennels<4	@15	\$ 75.00
1	Kennels<10	@25	\$ 25.00
<u>2</u>	Kennels>10	@50	<u>\$100.00</u>
133	Total Fees Collected		\$732.00

Town Fees	from Dog Licenses	125@ \$.75	\$ 93.75
Town Fees	from Kennels	8@ \$.75	<u>\$ 6.00</u>
Total	Town Fees Collected		\$ 99.75

HUNTING/FISHING/LICENSES/STAMPS

3	Fishing Licenses	\$82.50
0	Fishing License (Minor)	\$00.00
0	Fishing License (65-69)	\$00.00
3	Fishing License (>70)	\$00.00
1	Hunting License	\$27.50
4	Hunting/Sporting License	\$180.00
1	Hunting/Sporting License (>70)	\$00.00
3	Archery Stamps	\$15.30
4	Primitive Firearns Stamp	\$20.40
<u>2</u>	<u>Duck Stamp</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
21	Total License/Stamps Sold/Issued	\$335.70
	Town Fees Collected	\$ 5.20

TOWN CLERK FEES

14	Birth Certificates	\$ 70.00
2	Marriage Certificates	\$ 10.00
8	Death Certificates	\$ 40.00
2	Marriage Intentions	\$ 40.00
1	Burial Permits	\$ 20.00
0	Resident/Voter Lists	\$ 00.00
13	Business Certificates	\$260.00
1	Town By-laws	\$ 5.00
3	Zoning Bylaw Booklets	\$ 45.00
1	Raffle Permit	\$ 10.00
	Town Clerk Fees Collected	\$500.00

TOWN FEES

5	Variances/Special Permit Apps.	\$ 625.00
1	Parking Ticket	<u>15.00</u>
	Total Fees Collected	\$ 640.00

5 House Numbers Issued for 2007

POPULATION (2007 CENSUS) 1773

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	1238
DEMOCRATS	206
REPUBLICANS	147
WORKING FAMILIES	0
GREEN RAINBOW	0
OTHER POLITICAL DESIGNATIONS	7
UNENROLLED	878

2007 was an exciting year for Town Clerks around the Commonwealth. Two new political parties entered the arena: the Green-Rainbow and Working Families. In addition, to comply with the Help America to Vote Act, the Automark Voting Machine was installed and unveiled at the annual town election on June 2, 2007. This electronic machine enables the visually and hearing impaired to cast a ballot at the Town Hall. That ballot is then cranked thru the ballot machine along with all the other paper ballots and counted in the voter tally.

In addition to the Annual Town Meeting held May 12, 2007 and the Annual Town Election held June 2, 2007, three Special Town Meetings were held during 2007 on May 12, June 25 and November 26, 2007. At the ATM, general bylaw changes and additions were put forth and approved: Article 8, Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

A reminder that census forms are mailed yearly to all residents of Westhampton. These are very important and it is every resident's/tenant's responsibility to complete and return the form to the Town Clerk. Currently, it is a State law that all persons be included in the resident list of their city or town and the State imposes the penalty of removal from the voters list on anyone failing to complete and return the census.

Dog licenses are available in March for the current year. All dogs six months and older must be licensed by June 30, 2008. A current rabies certificate is required. Any person whose dog is not licensed after June 30, 2008 is subject to fines and penalties. A

rabies clinic is usually sponsored by the Board of Health in April or May. Notices of any clinics to be held in town will be posted at the Transfer Station.

The TOWN CLERK holds office hours on most MONDAY evenings from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Services provided include copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, issuing marriage licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, voter registration, business licenses, special permit/variance applications and the issuance of house numbers for new construction. Notary service is also available. The current month's calendar indicating meeting dates and times for Town Boards is posted on the Town Clerk's door as well as the bulletin board outside of Town Hall. Notices of town meetings and elections are posted at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Westhampton Memorial Library and Outlook Farm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson, Town Clerk

I have reviewed the Town Clerk's records and find this report to be thorough and accurate.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

AS OF JUNE 30, 2007

	Real Estate Balances June 30, 2007	Personal Property Balances June 30, 2007	Motor Vehicle Balances June 30, 2007
2007	\$122,169	\$ 1,633	\$ 15,332
2006	12,293	489	4,086
2005	7,146	419	776
2004	4,421	5,836	1,004
Prior Years	13,108	7,493	9,480
TOTAL	\$159,137	\$15,870	\$30,678

All Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows:

- 1st quarter - August 1
- 2nd quarter - November 1
- 3rd quarter - February 1
- 4th quarter - May 1

To keep postage to a minimum, only two mailings will continue with two quarters in each mailing.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Blakesley, Tax Collector

I have reviewed the report of the Tax Collector, have checked the figures with the Assessors' commitment sheets and abatement approvals, have compared all receipts with the turn-over sheets to the Treasurer, and have met with Laura after completing my audit. To the best of my knowledge, this report is correct as submitted.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2006	\$ 526,771.77
Receipts	4,530,836.57
Disbursements	-4,521,009.95
Balance June 30, 2007	\$536,598.39

Bank Western Massachusetts Checking	2414.38
Bank Western Massachusetts Money Market	63439.08
Easthampton Savings Capital CD	3874.05
Easthampton Savings Bank Collector	11034.14
Easthampton Savings Sweep	23391.48
Easthampton Savings Deputy Collector	2509.21
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	2137.01
MMDT General	180475.81
MMDT Cultural Council	2810.35
MMDT Septic Grant	60480.54
Bank Western Massachusetts Septic	1701.95
Unibank	95677.55
Unibank Online Collection	12178.52
MMDT Charity Trust	\$3,415.56
MMDT Cemetery Trust	3,737.44
MMDT Veterans Trust	1758.72
MMDT Library Trust	33968.45
MMDT Stabilization Fund	<u>31594.15</u>
Balance June 30, 2007	\$536,598.39

Interest earned - \$24,323.86.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING OFFICER

JULY 1, 2006 - JUNE 30, 2007

Cash on Hand July 1, 2006

General	455014.90	
Stabilization	29968.15	
Trust Funds	41788.72	
		526771.77

RECEIPTS

TAXES

Property	2866202.11	
Farm Animal Excise	1999.79	
Motor Vehicle Excise	188712.98	
		3056914.88

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Local Aid/Lottery	177092.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	341741.00	
Vocational Transportation	22971.00	
Charter School	12476.00	
Library Aid	3139.34	
Medicaid	9828.50	567247.84

GRANTS AND GIFTS

Dog Refund	255.69	
COA – Federal	1625.00	
COA – State	3200.00	
Concert Gifts	1232.00	
Cultural Council	4000.00	
Emergency Compliance	500.00	
NIMS Compliance	2160.00	
Federal Fire Grant	28530.00	
State Fire Grant	3900.00	
HazMat	1286.10	

Highway Gift	298.56	
Police Grants	12659.00	
Local Preparedness	10914.00	
Library Gifts	3362.04	73922.39
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	674.00	
Board of Assessors	151.00	
Plumbing Fees	1630.00	
Electrical Fees	1585.00	
Sanitation Fees	905.00	
Building Permits	18628.55	
Planning Board	365.00	
Board of Appeals	1125.00	
Library	95.00	
Mark & Clear	1040.00	
Town Clerk Fees	417.40	
Miscellaneous/refunds (oil)	6946.37	33562.32
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	2957.50	
Gun Permits	1575.00	
Reports	55.00	4587.50
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Permits	3325.00	3325.00
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Licenses & Permits	2000.00	
Septic Design	1850.00	
Perc Tests	5100.00	
Title V	1800.00	
Transfer Station Fees	45124.65	55874.65
WETLANDS PROTECTION		
	330.00	330.00
REVOLVING FUNDS		
Septic Repayment	22617.12	22617.12

SCHOOL FUNDS

Early Literacy	12197.00	
REAPS grant	10200.00	
Kindergarten Grant	7544.00	
Preschool	69377.45	
Building Use	1350.00	
Summer Art	1866.00	
School Lunch	27664.45	
Summer Revolving	1930.51	
Misc.	220.00	132349.41

HIGHWAY

Miscellaneous	2928.75	
Chapter 90	176878.53	
STRAP Grant	128972.92	308780.20

INTEREST

On General Fund	18898.78	
On Taxes	7804.74	
On Charity Funds	191.53	
On Cemetery Funds	197.92	
On Library Trust	1000.93	
On Veterans Trust	90.52	
On Stabilization	1626.00	
On Septic Grant	2166.51	
On Cultural Council	151.67	32128.60

AGENCY

Dog Licenses	599.00	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	304.00	
Tax Collector Fees	4180.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	3018.00	
Meals Tax	26.09	
Gun Permits	4725.00	
Police Outside Detail	9162.23	
Refund	563.76	
Payroll Deductions	184629.08	207207.16

TOTAL RECEIPTS

4498847.07

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS

Property Tax	12541.92	
Motor Vehicle Excise	2011.65	14553.57

AGENCY

Dog Licenses	534.75	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	304.00	
Tax Collector Fees	2645.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	2557.00	
Meals Tax	23.21	
Gun Permits	4450.00	
Police Detail	7534.20	
Payroll Deductions	179878.19	
		197926.35

SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Early Literacy	9147.84	
REAPS grant	21599.48	
94-142 Grant	12521.19	
Kindergarten Grant	12000.00	
Preschool	74362.22	
Building Use	2586.18	
School Lunch	27126.40	
Summer Art	1815.00	
Misc.	150.00	161308.31

SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Brush Mower	810.79	
Cultural Council	3704.00	
Concert Gifts	2575.00	
Council on Aging Federal	1677.49	
Council on Aging State	3192.97	
Emergency Preparedness	1056.09	
Fire Grants	32865.29	
Highway Funds	234683.85	
Library Gifts	4800.60	
April Nor'easter	21163.15	
Library Grant/Match	747.66	
State Aid to Library	601.36	

Public Health Grant	44.59	
Police Grants	11299.00	
Septic Grant	25.00	
Highway Gift	298.56	
		321545.40
STATE ASSESSMENTS		
School Choice	23982.00	
Charter School	29931.00	53913.00
VETERANS TRUST	71.00	71.00
TOTAL Non-Appropriation		749317.63
ACCRUALS		22840.38
APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES		
See Appropriation Report for Detail		3716862.44
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		4489020.45
Cash on Hand June 30, 2007		
General	462,124.07	
Stabilization	31,594.15	
Trust Funds	42,880.17	
		536,598.39

APPROPRIATION REPORT FISCAL 2007

ACCOUNT	BALANCE 7/1/2006	APPROPRIATION (IN OR OUT)	TRANSFER EXPENDITURES	BALANCE CLOSED	BALANCE TO F2008
MODERATOR		200.00	200.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN SALARY		3350.00	3350.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE		3600.00			
Travel/Dues incl Plumbing In:			753.40		
Town Report			1067.00		
Town Hall sub			270.00		
Medicaid billing			522.18		
Supplies/advertising			<u>805.40</u>		
			3417.98	182.02	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.		14040.00	14040.00	0.00	
AUDITOR SALARY		200.00	200.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING OFF SALARY		9839.00	9839.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING EXPENSE		1700.00			
Software Support			581.75		
Supplies/computer			325.86		
Dues/Travel			<u>374.00</u>		
			1281.61	418.39	
ASSESSORS SALARY		7150.00	7150.00	0.00	

ASSESSORS EXPENSE	12970.00	300.00	
Dues/Travel		459.00	
Reval Assistance		10342.38	
Registry of Deeds		92.00	
Consortium		1600.00	
Data entry		200.00	
Supplies/Forms		<u>543.93</u>	
		13237.31	32.69
ASSESSORS SECRETARY	1500.00	1500.00	0.00
TREASURER SALARY	9839.00	9839.00	0.00
TREASURER EXPENSE	3400.00		
Software Support		1040.75	
Bank Charges		524.48	
Dues/travel		179.00	
Postage		900.70	
Supplies/equipment		313.76	
Tax Title Expense		<u>225.00</u>	
		3183.69	216.31
FINANCIAL SOFTWARE	24900.00	24900.00	0.00
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	4235.00		
Postage/envelopes		1336.10	
Supplies		1037.96	
Tax Bills		845.40	
Software Support		800.00	
Dues/Travel		<u>55.00</u>	

TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	7239.00	4074.46	160.54
COUNSEL FEES	10000.00	10807.94	1192.06
TOWN CLERK SALARY	6402.00	6402.00	0.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	3612.00		
Election Officers/Police		1868.35	
Supplies/Printing		1368.36	
Dues/Travel		<u>50.00</u>	
		3286.71	75.29
			250.00
CLERK BOARD REGISTRAR	50.00	50.00	0.00
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	265.00		
Dues/travel		0.00	265.00
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	200.00	500.00	0.00
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	650.00	508.25	141.75
TOWN OFFICES	10200.00	3325.00	
Custodian		1975.00	
Electricity		2166.03	
Telephone		1001.27	
Comcast		780.00	
Copier		325.00	
New Copier		1500.00	

Lawns	851.52				
Heating oil	3849.32				
Repairs/Improvements	647.22				
Supplies	<u>369.44</u>				
	13464.80	60.20			
TOWN HALL REPAIRS	448.56				7796.11
POLICE DEPARTMENT					
Police Chief	18500.00				
Sergeant	7350.00				
Officers/court	3756.00				
Court	195.00				
Mileage	256.68				
Cruiser maintenance	1937.64				
Officer Equipment	4847.53				
WMLEC	250.00				
Office	1485.52				
Telephone/pagers	<u>833.19</u>				
	39411.56	2088.44			
FIRE CHIEF	6591.82				214.18
FIRE DEPARTMENT					
Fire Chief Expenses/dues	915.00				
Communications	2,553.44				
Vehicle repair/maintenance	897.46				
Equipment & Supplies	8,415.68				
Telephone & postage	324.56				
Subscriptions	<u>240.00</u>				
	13,346.14	53.86			

SAFETY COMPLEX	10000.00		
Oil		4932.08	
Utilities		2632.34	
Burner Service		125.01	
Misc Repair & Maint.		<u>452.22</u>	
		8141.65	1858.35
SAFETY COMPLEX DOORS	11000.00	10858.29	141.71
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	6000.00		6000.00
Ambulance		5000.00	
Training		<u>744.00</u>	
		5744.00	256.00
INSPECTOR SALARY	13200.00		
Wiring Inspector		1580.00	
Plumbing Inspector		1040.00	
Sanitation Inspector		755.00	
Building Inspector		5500.00	
HCOG Sub		<u>240.00</u>	
		9115.00	4085.00
BUILDING INSPECTOR EXP	500.00		
Forms		125.60	
Travel		<u>365.00</u>	
		490.60	9.40
TREE WARDEN EXPENSE	2000.00	2000.00	0.00

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALARY	630.00	630.00	0.00	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL See Elementary Report	1033112.00	946477.43	3936.23	82698.34
VOCATIONAL TUITION	147065.00	140153.01	911.99	
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION	27324.00	40950.00	0.00	
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL H.S.	973513.00	973513.00	0.00	
HRHS DEBT	123494.00	123494.00	0.00	
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	4840.00			
Uniforms		1698.60		
Shoe Allowance		337.97		
Telephone		770.70		
HCOG fees/travel		298.76		
Office supplies		<u>110.46</u>		
		3216.49	1623.51	
HIGHWAY SALARIES	167000.00	165253.82	1746.18	
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	55000.00			
Road Maintenance		49273.42	1726.58	
SANDER	7300.00	7250.00	50.00	

SNOW REMOVAL				
Sand	50000.00	3228.73	10267.89	
Salt			25311.37	
Liquid calcium			959.06	
Overtime			8170.54	
Parts			<u>8519.87</u>	
			53228.73	0.00
ROAD MACHINERY				
Repairs/Parts/Supplies	22550.00		17440.76	
Brush Mower			<u>350.00</u>	
			17790.76	4759.24
LOADER				
	86000.00		85994.00	6.00
ROAD MACHINERY FUEL				
	22663.00	4000.00	26130.02	532.98
HIGHWAY GARAGE				
		5938.83	3064.62	2874.21
ROAD MACHINERY BUILDINGS				
Fire alarm monitoring	19500.00		300.00	
Electricity			4686.45	
Heating oil			9468.75	
Burner service			595.74	
Misc.(glass, locks,electrician)			2182.46	
Comcast			<u>720.00</u>	
			17953.40	1546.60

VETERANS	100.00	200.00	192.10	107.90
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	1204.00		1204.00	0.00
MEMORIAL DAY	100.00		35.00	65.00
CULTURAL COUNCIL	75.00		60.00	15.00
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY	3400.00	1050.00		
Stipend			1050.00	
Perc tests/Title V			<u>3400.00</u>	
			4450.00	0.00
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	69575.00			
Landfill Attendant			6637.50	
Hauling			18523.10	
Tipping Fees			23640.26	
Transfer station utilities			943.66	
Electronics			1226.07	
Tire Collection			564.00	
Propane			74.00	
Landfill monitoring fees			5500.00	
Landfill Cap mowing			620.00	
Permit/Stickers			665.00	
Misc Transfer Station supplies/exp			695.03	
BOH Supplies/misc/training			418.82	
Transfer station telephone			240.00	
Office help/consulting fees			256.50	
Field Service			<u>81.00</u>	
			60084.94	9385.06
				105.00
HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGT.	4979.00		4978.10	0.90

CEMETERY SALARY	4836.00	4836.00	0.00
DOG OFFICER	250.00	0.00	250.00
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	550.00	550.00	0.00
LIBRARY	61000.00		
Salaries		44561.77	
Utilities, Lawns and Repairs		2162.58	
Books and Supplies		12760.65	
Heating Oil		<u>1515.00</u>	
		61000.00	0.00
DEBT AND INTEREST			
LANDFILL CAPPING LOAN	45000.00	45000.00	0.00
HIGHWAY GARAGE/FIRETRUCK	100000.00	100000.00	0.00
TOWN HALL REPAIR LOAN	20000.00	20000.00	0.00
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT	70050.00	70050.00	0.00
INTEREST SHORT TERM DEBT	2813.00	2810.20	2.80
UNCLASSIFIED			

INSURANCE & BONDS	55000.00	54355.03	644.97	
COUNCIL ON AGING	1100.00	1100.00	0.00	
HISTORICAL	200.00	127.13	72.87	
COUNTY RETIREMENT	88854.00	88854.00	0.00	
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	2028.00	2027.76	0.24	
UNEMPLOYMENT	12300.00		200.00	
GROUP INSURANCE	236000.00	247338.84	761.16	
MEDICARE	17000.00	14085.64	2914.36	
LAND DAMAGE	1.00	0.00	1.00	
ASSESSMENTS	1364.00	1663.20	-299.20	
RESERVE FUND	5000.00			
To Fire Chief Salary			-806.00	
To Board of Health			-1050.00	
To Planning Board			-300.00	
To Assessors Expense			-300.00	
To Town Offices Expense			-1600.00	
To Veterans Expense			-200.00	
			744.00	
	39083.50	3667794.01	49156.56	93723.66

BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2007

GENERAL FUND

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

294720.13

Personal Property Receivable

15870.29

Real Estate Tax Receivable

160719.01

Allowance for Abatements

-73605.95

Tax Titles & Possessions

4940.82

Motor Vehicle Excise Receivable

30700.90

Farm Animal Excise Receivable

540.45

Classified Forest Tax Receivable

52.80

Subtotal Taxes

139218.32

FUND BALANCE

Reserve fo Encumbrances

36240.12

Reserve for Expenditures

96000.00

Undesignated Fund Balance

115666.79

Subtotal Fund Balance

247906.91

Total Assets

433938.45

Total Liabilities/Fund Balance

433938.45

LIABILITIES

Accrued Payrolls Payable

46813.22

Def Rev Property Taxes

102983.35

Deferred Revenue Tax Liens

4940.82

Deferred Revenue MVE

30700.90

Deferred Revenue Farm Excise

540.45

Deferred Revenue Forest Prod.

52.80

Subtotal Liabilities

186031.54

SCHOOL FUNDS

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

LIABILITIES

Accrued Payroll Payable

FUND BALANCE
Summer Art 51.00
School Lunch -319.07
School Building Use 7023.68
Preschool Program -4159.42
Kindergarten Enhancement -4363.21
94-412 Grant -11616.34
REAPS Grant -1756.07
School Gifts 385.59
Early Literacy Intervention 1399.99
Subtotal Fund Balance

Total Assets

-475.34

-475.34

-13353.85

HIGHWAY FUNDS

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

FUND BALANCE

Due from Commonwealth -323909.08
STRAP Grant 258707.15
Chapter 122 19863.24
Subtotal Fund Balance

Total Assets

-45338.69

-45338.69

-45338.69

STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

FUND BALANCE

-4439.38

-21163.15

Fema Nor'easter

1670.41

Public Health Grant

-45.74

COA Federal

7.03

COA State

10348.82

Library Grant Match

2749.89

State Aid to Library

389.45

Public Libraries Fund

1603.91

NIMS Compliance

Subtotal Fund Balance

-4439.38

Total Assets

-4439.38

Total Liabilities/Fund Balance

-4439.38

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

FUND BALANCE

10670.32

7796.11

Town Hall Repairs

2874.21

Highway Building

10670.32

Subtotal Fund Balance

Total Assets

10670.32

Total Liabilities/Fund Balance

10670.32

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

82801.17	FUND BALANCE	
	Cultural Council	2810.35
	Concert Gifts	127.00
	225 Celebration	4914.60
	Water Gift	604.70
	Town Hall Gifts	14.70
	Highway Gift	50.00
	Tree Gift	34.68
	Hax Mat	1286.10
	Septic Repair	62182.49
	Cemetery Gift	1084.65
	Library Gift	7389.53
	Library Averill	2010.19
	Conservation Grant	292.18
	Subtotal Fund Balance	82801.17

Total Assets

82801.17	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	82801.17
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RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR

APPROPRIATION

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

114386.61	FUND BALANCE	
	Sale of Town Property	106000
	County Dog Refund	259.94
	Wetlands Conservation	8126.67
	Subtotal Fund Balance	114386.61

Total Assets

114386.61	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	114386.61
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NON-EXPENDIBLE TRUST

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

FUND BALANCE

7153.00	Street & Wright	2400.54
	Thayer	1015.01
	Cemetery	3737.45
	Subtotal Fund Balance	7153.00

Total Assets

7153.00

7153.00

EXPENDIBLE TRUST

ASSETS

Pooled Cash

FUND BALANCE

71124.85	Veterans	1711.62
	Street & Wright	2210.88
	Thayer	536.22
	Cemetery	1127.43
	Library Anonymous	33968.45
	Stabilization	31570.25
	Subtotal Fund Balance	71124.85

Total Assets

71124.85

71124.85

DEBT

ASSETS

Amounts to be provided BANS

Amounts to be provided bonds

LIABILITIES

52000.00	Highway Truck	52000.00
1535000.00	Landfill Capping	100000.00
	Highway Garage/Firetruck	1435000.00
	Subtotal Liabilities	1587000.00

Total Assets

1587000.00

Total Liabilities

1587000.00

Town of Westhampton
Combined Balance Sheet - All Funds and Account Groups
June 30, 2007

	<u>Governmental Funds</u>			<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	<u>Account Group General</u>	
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Trust and Agency</u>	<u>Long-Term Debt</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Assets</u>						
Cash	\$ 294,720	\$ 146,934	\$ 10,670	\$ 84,274	\$ -	\$ 536,598
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taxes Receivable:						
Real property	160,719					160,719
Personal property	15,870					15,870
Other Taxes	593					593
Tax liens	4,941					4,941
	182,123	-	-	-	-	182,123
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	73,606	-	-	-	-	73,606
	108,517	-	-	-	-	108,517
Other Receivables:						
Motor vehicle and other excise	30,701					30,701
Commonwealth of Massachusetts		323,909				323,909
	30,701	323,909	-	-	-	354,610
Amounts to be Provided for Retirement of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	1,587,000	1,587,000
Total Assets	\$ 433,938	\$ 470,843	\$ 10,670	\$ 84,274	\$ 1,587,000	\$ 2,586,725
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>						
Liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$ 46,813	\$ 12,879			\$ -	\$ 59,692
Deferred revenue -Property	102,983					102,983
Deferred revenue - Other Taxes	593					593
Deferred revenue - Tax Liens	4,941					4,941
Deferred revenue - MVE	30,701					30,701
Long-term debt					1,587,000	1,587,000
Total Liabilities	186,031	12,879	-	-	1,587,000	1,785,910
Fund Balances:						
Reserved:						
Encumbrances	36,240					36,240
Expenditures	96,000					96,000
Unreserved:						
Designated		457,964	10,670	84,274		552,908
Undesignated	115,667					115,667
Total Fund Balances	247,907	457,964	10,670	84,274	-	800,815
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 433,938	\$ 470,843	\$ 10,670	\$ 84,274	\$ 1,587,000	\$ 2,586,725

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2007 the Board of Assessors issued 41 Real Estate and Personal Property abatements and exemptions, and 55 for Motor Vehicle. Also, 37 property transfers were recorded; and 3 additional parcels were placed under the protection of Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B.

Westhampton's assessed values for FY2008 are:

Real Estate	\$230,037,176
Personal Property	\$ 2,792,837
Exempt	\$ 22,304,900

The tax rate was set in December 2007 at \$13.10 per \$1000.00 of valuation.

The Board wishes to thank Paul (Buddy) Nevins for his many years of service to the Town of Westhampton as an Assessor. Buddy's term ended in June and he chose not to run again after serving 19 years as an Assessor. Buddy graciously accepted a 1 year appointment to the Board when the position went unfilled.

The Board of Assessors meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. As of publication time, hours have been expanded to include Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9-12. We can be reached at 527-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Miller
Paul Nevins
Walter Morrey

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2007 the Finance Committee members and the end dates of their respective terms were:

David Brown	2008
Bret LaFrance	2008
Lisa Kennedy	2008
Priscilla Flynn	2009
Ellice Gonzalez	2009
Margaret Parsons	2009
Karla Stefansson	2009
Stacey Jenkins	2010
Mark Thornhill	2010
Owen Bowman	2010

Reserve Fund transfers made in Fiscal 2007 were as follows:

To Fire Chief Salary	\$ 806
To Board of Health	1050
To Planning Board	300
To Assessors Expense	300
To Town Offices Expense	1600
To Veterans Expense	<u>200</u>
	\$4256

The following Finance Committee recommendations were approved at Special Town Meetings on May 12, 2007 and June 25, 2007:

Snow Removal from Free Cash	\$3228.73
Group Insurance from Unemployment	12100.00
Counsel Fees from Free Cash	2000.00
Town Offices from Free Cash	1725.00
Vocational Transportation	
From Free Cash	7626.00
From Vocational Tuition	6000.00

The Finance Committee recognizes the hard work of the schools and town departments. Their professionalism and ingenuity

afford our residents superior education and services levels despite our limited resources.

The Finance Committee would also like to thank the numerous volunteers that contribute valuable personal time to ensure the safety of our residents, protection of property and tend to the business of keeping the town running.

The sum of all initial budget requests amounted to a 7.4% increase over FY07. Given the restrictions of Proposition 2 ½ these budget requests resulted in a deficit of \$201,750. The Finance Committee recommended a budget that that was 5.7% above FY07 and, taking into account new growth, eliminated the deficit. A balanced budget was achieved by reductions in the requested Assessors Salary, Snow Removal Budget and the following actions:

Certified Free Cash was reduced from \$138,712 to \$28,132 to fund the following items:

- \$ 36,000 for a police vehicle
- \$ 60,000 to reduce tax rate
- \$ 7,626 to Vocational Transportation
- \$ 2,000 to Counsel Fees
- \$ 3,229 to Snow Removal
- \$ 1,725 to Town Offices

Westhampton's share of the HRHS budget was reduced from \$1,036,268 to \$1,022,189 with \$25,000 contingent on a Proposition 2½ Override. The override passed 93 to 68.

Westhampton Elementary School's budget was reduced from \$1,114,917 to \$1,100,553 with \$30,000 contingent upon a Proposition 2½ Override. The override passed 97 to 64.

Respectfully Submitted

David J. Brown, Chairman

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board reviewed and approved very few building lots and building permit applications this past year.

The Board denied a Special Permit for a lot located off of Route 66 for the sale of used cars and to construct a building for the repair of said automobiles.

The Board approved a small nine house subdivision to be built by Sovereign Builders Inc. located off of Route 66 and sometimes referred to as Fisher/Blueberry Hill on approximately 155 acres near the Huntington Town line.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board in 2007 consisted of Wayne Parks, Leo Aloisi, (chair), Richard W. Tracy, (clerk), John Kelsey, David Shelton, and Suzanne Wolf. This board meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall. At our regular meetings we answer people's questions, sign off on building permit applications, study new laws and regulations, and try to keep up with current practices and rules that deal with zoning applications. There is an open position on our board so if you are interested in this area you should write a letter of interest to the Selectboard as they are the appointing authority.

Throughout the year we hold public hearings as required for special permit and variance requests. In 2007 we held 7 public hearings. Several of these hearings required multiple sessions.

On Jan. 9th a public hearing on application #173 for a special permit and a variance at #43 Pine Island Lake on East Shore Road. Special Permit granted with conditions. Variance granted with conditions.

On May 8th, a public hearing on application #175 for a special permit at #57 Pine Island Lake, on South Shore Road. Special Permit granted with conditions.

On June 12th, a public hearing on application #177 for a special permit at #54 Pine Island Lake. Special Permit granted with conditions.

On June 12th, a public hearing on application #178 for a special permit at #11 Pine Island Lake on West Shore Road. Special Permit granted with conditions.

On July 10th, a public hearing on application #170 for a variance at #50 Pine Island Lake on Cove Road. This hearing had been continued a number of times from last year. This variance was denied without prejudice.

On October 9th, a public hearing on application #179 for a variance at 43 Stage Road. Variance granted with conditions.

On December 11th, a public hearing on application #180 for a variance at 331 Southampton Road. Variance granted with conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Clerk

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2006-2007 was very late getting started; virtually no snow fell until late January. The rest of the winter was average until mid April when an old fashioned Nor'easter moved in. Six inches of wet heavy snow fell on April 15, 2007. Rising temperatures the night of the 15th combined with 5.5 inches rain on the 16th caused very heavy run off. This proved to be more than many drainage ditches and culverts could handle. As a result, moderate damage occurred at eight separate sites around town; five sites on gravel roads, two sites on paved roads and one slope failure. Damage at seven of these sites consisted mostly of washed away shoulders and ditches. Seven of these sites were repaired by the end of May at a cost for materials only of \$21,161.15. FEMA offered "disaster relief" and reimbursed for materials, labor and equipment, totaling \$36,222.50. The eighth site is at the Kings Highway/ Reservoir Road intersection (slope failure.) After much discussion and many on site meetings with FEMA representatives and our consultant, a solution was arrived at. This work will be completed in the summer. We have received an additional \$32,400.26 from FEMA to complete this project.

A total of \$53,228.73 was spent on snow removal in FY2007.

Spring clean up went as usual with all hard surfaced roads swept. Brush was cut and burned on Montague Road, Rt. 66 and Southampton Road. Catch basins were cleaned throughout town.

In July, 25% design plans were submitted to the town for review and comment for the replacement of the North Road bridge over Roberts Meadow Brook. This is a Mass Highway Department project. The town is only responsible for securing the necessary easements and land takings. The tentative bid date is October 2011.

On June 5th, bids were opened for the South Road reconstruction project. Low bidder was All States Asphalt at \$3,219,010.35. A pre construction conference was held at District 2 on December 4, 2007 and, at the time of this writing, the office trailer is in place. Finally it is going to happen!

Chesterfield Road, from the Northampton town line to its intersection with North Road, was shimmed and overlaid with hot mix in July.

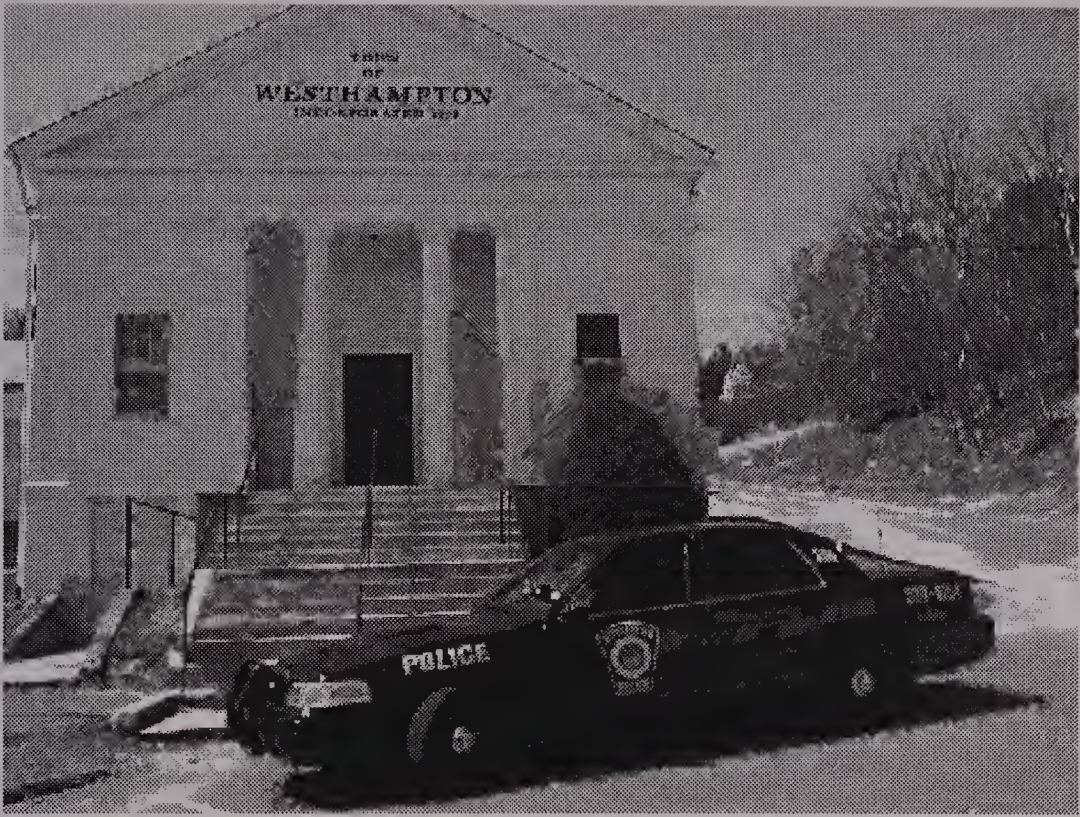
Most of the remainder of summer and fall was spent working on Hathaway Road. The drainage system was installed to pick up both surface and ground water. A total of 29 catch basins were built within this system. Fine grading was completed and, on August 31st, the base coat of pavement was put down. Next the grates and frames were set, followed by the berm. All driveways were blended in to match the new road surface. The fall weather cooperated and allowed us to finish all the landscape work along both sides, for the entire length of the road. All that remains is cleaning up and stabilizing our staging area and putting down the top coat of hot mix.

All in all, it was a very busy and productive year for the Highway Department.

Once again, I wish to thank Peter Montague, Jerry Ostrowski and Mike Robbins for their hard work and dedication to the department.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley
Highway Superintendent



REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Police Department continues to move forward to better serve the residents of the town. Over the past year we have continued outreach programs with our seniors and in our school system. Officers have attended yearly training and endeavor to learn new skills that will ultimately benefit the Town of Westhampton. Other goals accomplished this year:

- The firearms licensing process has been streamlined. In the 2008, the department will hope to be able to submit and process all permits through the Commonwealth's record management system. Completion time of the renewals and applications should be vastly improved.
- Last summer, I was out of the office for a few days for vacation. As a surprise, Sgt. Fisher, Ofc. Johndrow and Lisa Kennedy spent countless hours in our new office at the Public Safety Building. They completely renovated the area by painting and by adding work stations. The office is now a functional, organized police office instead of a couple desks and file cabinets. Special thanks to all three in their efforts in recognizing the need for a professional work area. As is so often the case in our

small town, we thrive on the hearts and souls of the volunteers' efforts.

- A new police cruiser was purchased with improved radio systems that not only allows us to contact surrounding towns but also allows us direct communication with our fire and highway departments. This assists all efforts to better manage emergency and non-emergency events.
- Finally, the department developed a website: www.TownofWesthampton.com. This site is under development but currently offers department information, forms and our contact email.

As requested, the following is a synopsis of calls for service that were handled in 2007:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
-Emergency/paged out calls	132	232
To include - Arrests/summons	4	10
- Disturbances	17	11
- B&E	6	5
- Larcenies	12	6
- Domestic Calls	5	6
-Assault	1	2
- alarms/911 hang up/ misdials	45	63
-Suspicious Persons/Vehicles	24	18
- Medical/Fire Assists	13	18
- Accidents	16	19
- Officer assistance	20	26
- Vandalism	5	21

Officers report to the station for message check-approximately 1095.

As always the officers of this department are open to constructive suggestions to improve service. The non-emergency line (527-6154) is checked at least three times a day. An officer will return your call. As always, in an emergency, dial 911. This call will go to the State Police Barracks and an officer will be paged out.

In the off chance a town officer is not available, the Massachusetts State Police will respond to assist.

Firearms applications and renewals are accepted on the second Wednesday of each month between 6pm and 7pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

David White
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department had another successful year in 2007 providing emergency services to the community. The Department responded to one-hundred and forty-two calls for service this year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, and many more. In addition, over two-hundred and fifty inspections and permits were completed and issued throughout the year. These inspections and permits can range from smoke detector and carbon monoxide inspections, installation of oil burners and propane tanks, and issuing burning permits and fireworks display permits.

The Fire Department consists of twenty-nine volunteers who are all cross-trained in fire rescue and at a minimum level of emergency medical first response, some of whom are Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. Three new members joined the ranks of the Department this past year to bolster the roster to the current number. The new members, Alan Loud, Ben Snape, and Don Long, all have significant experience and knowledge to contribute to the Department helping to provide the needed emergency services to the Town.

All Departments members continue to dedicate themselves to a higher level of knowledge and proficiency. This past year was the first time the Westhampton Fire Department has ever sent anyone to the National Fire Academy in Maryland for training. Captain Mike Diggins, and Firefighters Christopher Brooks, Scott Tirrell, and Dave Antosz all attend classes at the Academy in September. All volunteer personnel train, at a minimum, twice a month for four hours in addition to annual first responder training, hazmat training, and training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS training is a Federal requirement for all first responder organizations to participate in order to maintain eligibility for any Federal or State grants.

The department's fleet of apparatus consists of two engines, one water tanker, one brush truck, one rescue truck, and one utility vehicle. All vehicles are checked regularly on a weekly basis to ensure a state of operational readiness and reliability. The Town's Highway Department has been a tremendous asset to the Fire Department, completing all routine maintenance and upkeep of the vehicles. The Fire Department also completed pump testing on each of the Engines this year. The purpose of this test is to demonstrate that the pump/engine combination is capable of meeting the performance requirements of the apparatus design.

Department personnel continue care for and maintain the Public Safety Complex and make improvements to help prolong the life of the building. This year, a new oil burner was installed by Firefighter Scott Vachula to replace one that was over thirty years old. This oil burner, which is much more efficient, was instrumental in keeping the costs of heating the building down with the prices of oil this past year. Deputy Chief Steve Holt continues to care for and provide the landscaping for the building along with many of volunteer Firefighters spending countless hours helping to maintain the building.

The upcoming year will pose many challenges for the Department that will need the support of the Town. State and

Federal mandates, increasing training requirements, and the ever changing technology continues to challenge the time demands placed on all of the volunteers of the Department. Retention of current personnel and recruitment of new personnel will continue to be a priority for the Department. The Federal grant received by the Department last year helped to obtain equipment and supplies to improve the operational capabilities for emergency responses; however, it brought the Department to a level of where it should have been. Efforts need to be continued to improve the health and safety of these volunteers and provide them with the equipment and supplies needed to respond to and mitigate any emergencies within the community.

The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residences swimming pools, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and increase response times. The Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community.

We would all like thank the residences for your continued support throughout the year in helping to make our job easier. We strive to improve our knowledge and services to help make Westhampton a safer community to live. Through our members values of professionalism, honesty, integrity, compassion, and dedication we will continue to meet the needs of the residents and remain “Committed to the Community”. Have a great year and stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher W. Norris
Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE VETERANS' AGENT

This past year the Veterans' Department has finalized the list of our town Veterans that will be placed on the new Veterans' memorial at our common. The projected date is Memorial Day May 26th 2008. We give many thanks to our town officials to be able to complete this memorial for our Veterans who have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Again we are still at war and lost approximately 4000 U.S. Veterans – please support our Veterans!!!

Contact Bob Messier, Veterans' Agent, at 413 527-6294 for assistance.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Messier
Director of Veterans' Services

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

2007 was another interesting and varied year for the Board of Health.

Board members attended pandemic flu training, participated in emergency planning meetings, and received emergency supplies and equipment through grants received by our emergency planning partner, the Hampshire Emergency Preparedness Coalition, the organization that assists the Board of Health to prepare for public health emergencies.

Improvements to the transfer station include increased lighting for evening service hours, (Westhampton continues to be the only town in the area offering evening hours) and a new feature, the

“Got Books” depository. Each book, CD, DVD or VCR tape you deposit will be collected by the Got Books organization. Half of the profits are donated to charity, while unsold books are donated to schools or other organizations. The depository does not accept magazines.

Overall, the town again recycled 41% of all solid waste, which is a whopping good job!

This year we say farewell to our Transfer Station Attendant, John Karakula. We are grateful to John for his many years of good service to the Board and the Town, and wish him happiness, luck, and good fishing during his well earned retirement.

The Board of Health meets at the Town Hall on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Flynn, Chair
William Magrone, Clerk
Thomas Martin, Officer

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Last year the HRMC helped the Town of Westhampton:
1) Recycle and divert 231.74 tons of material saving the Town over \$17,480.39 in disposal costs..
2) \$ 4,733.13 in recycling revenue.

Therefore for the annual assessment amount of \$ 4,978.10 Westhampton received over \$ 22,213.52 in indirect costs, savings, services and revenues from services, programs and assistance provided by the HRMC!

The HRMC is a unique regional cooperative organization which was created in 1989 by concerned residents in the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington,

Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. The primary mission of the HRMC is to assist it's member Towns with the planning and management of their solid waste management and recycling programs and since 1989 the HRMC has been doing just that. On an annual basis the HRMC assists your Town in the following ways;

- 1) Budget savings on annual disposal costs through careful management of the Towns waste management and recycling programs.
- 2) Assist the local officials in your Town with the Town transfer station/recycling center operations, budget planning, as well as any DEP related enforcement and filing issues as they arise.
- 3) Help protect the environment through the recycling of glass, cans, plastic bottles, paper, newspaper, junk mail, cardboard, electronics, tires, propane tanks, paint, clothes and other common household products.
- 4) Operating the regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Paint Recycling and Electronics Recycling programs to help keep toxic materials out of our local environment.
- 5) Assist your Town directly with the bidding of recycling hauling, solid waste hauling, disposal contracts and transfer station equipment
- 6) Obtaining cash and equipment grants to assist your Town, when available.
- 7) Assist your Town with the development new recycling programs when needed.
- 8) Advocate on behalf of its member Towns with State legislators.
- 9) Explore long term sustainability issues which will effect/benefit all Hilltown Communities.

The HRMC Administrator, Eric Weiss, our one and only employee, helps all HRMC member Towns with these many tasks. Last year the HRMC helped the Towns (combined) recycle over 2156.10 tons of materials, saving the Towns over

\$151,471.02 in direct disposal costs and earning the Towns (combined) over \$43,383.44.00 in recycling revenues!

We look forward to continuing to help you and your Town protect the environment and save money. If you have any questions about recycling or have a waste disposal problem, please call us at (413) 268 – 3845 or email us hrmc@crocker.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Weiss
Administrator, HRMC

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

I have made the annual inspection of the farm animals in Westhampton as required by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. As of January 2008 the numbers are as follows:

Dairy Cattle over 2 yrs	169
Dairy Cattle under 2 yrs	135
Beef Cattle over 2 yrs	11
Beef Cattle under 2 yrs	15
Goats	52
Sheep	36
Swine	2
Horses/ponies	112
Donkeys/mules	8
Chickens	243
Turkeys	8
Water Fowl	28
Guineas	19
Peacocks	10

The animals all appeared healthy and well cared for. Also, 1 bat was submitted for rabies and 1 dog was placed under 10 day quarantine. In both cases the results were negative.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy
Animal Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

The winter of 2006 was a normal winter with the usual spring cleanup. We had a few dry spells this past summer, but all in all it was a normal mowing season. My weed trimmer had to be worked on this year and may need to be replaced this coming year, but everything else is in good shape. The cemetery took over one bay in the old police garage which is where the tractor is parked now. We are looking into a lighter means of mowing, equipment wise, in the future, as the tractor is leaving depressions due to the size plus the grub damage. The grubs are back and we'll be dealing with them this up coming year. The South Rd. project is due to start soon so we will be seeing some changes in not only the expansion at the north end of the cemetery, but also in how Cemetery Rd. joins South Rd.

This past year there were:

8 -Traditional Burials
9-Cremations
4-Foundations
5-New Lots

Respectfully Submitted

Edward C. Fisher Cemetery
Caretaker

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Chairman: Tom Jenkins

Members: Steve Holt, John Meehan (newly appointed), Brad Morse, Mark Young, Fred Morrison, Bob LaPalme, (secretary)

Comments: The Conservation Commission continues its service to the town of Westhampton and its residents by assisting them with their projects that fall within state wetlands and river protection regulation. The state wetlands and river protection laws exist in order to contribute to the following interests:

- Protection of public and private water supply
- Protection of ground water supply
- Flood control
- Storm damage prevention
- Prevention of pollution
- Protection of land containing shellfish
- Protection of fisheries
- Protection of wildlife habitat

Summary of Con Com Activities. Numbers approximate filings and activities of the commission for the year 2007:

Public hearings conducted-----	3
Notice of Intent filed-----	1
(amendment)	
Request for Determination of Applicability-----	3
Site visits-----	14
Certificate of compliance-----	1
Order of conditions-----	1
Enforcement order-----	none
Title V review (septic, new or repair) -----	2
Amended Order of Condition-----	1

Other:	
Citizen inquiry, (no further action needed; exempt or not within jurisdiction)-----	10
Wetland permit extension (#335-63) -----	1
Potential violations corrected-----	2
Signed building permits-----	2
Withdrawal from agricultural or forestry tax exemption-----	1

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Jenkins, Chair

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

In 2006, there were 19 systems completed. All of their paperwork from the town was done. There were fifteen upgrades and four new systems.

There are still people living in their homes who do not have their certificate of compliance for septic work from the Town of Westhampton.

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector
527-4841

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During the year 2007, the Plumbing Inspector’s office received sixty five permit applications. Twenty-seven were for plumbing work and thirty-eight were for gas piping. There were eight new homes and nineteen remodeling jobs.

A total of \$3,265 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There were 105 building permits issued in 2007 with \$17,931.70 taken in as fees with \$3,545,274 as taxable value.

Permits issued in 2007:

One Family	7
Two Family	0
Additions	5
Renovations	19
Basement Rooms	2
Signs	2
Above Ground Pool	6
In ground Pool	3
Decks	9
Garages	6
Siding	6
Sheds	7
Windows	5
Reroof	14
Barns	3
Wood Stoves	6
Chimneys	3
Demo Barn	1
Cottages	1
Occupancy permit	4

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Pietraszkiewicz
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging has completed another successful year in 2007 to provide a variety of services and activities for Westhampton seniors. Town, state and federal funds, together with the combined efforts of many volunteers, made these programs possible.

Liz Anderson served as chairman with Jean Webster as co-chairman and Jean Webster continued as our Highland Valley representative. Ann Tracy and Liz Anderson attended meetings of the Hilltown Consortium. Gale Wright cared for the flowers, for all to enjoy, at the Council on Aging - Welcome to Westhampton sign at the intersection of Main Road and Loudville Road.

We meet the first Thursday of most months for our monthly luncheons, with an average of 45 seniors attending. Take-out meals were provided for home-bound elders that request them, blood pressure checks were done by Louise Jasionkowski, and birthdays were celebrated each month with a cupcake and candle provided by Pat Warren. Mary Holt is sending out birthday cards and Jean Webster sends out get well and sympathy cards to all seniors. Our three-time weekly exercise classes, organized by Gerry Ognibene, have continued.

Entertaining, educational and informative programs following each luncheon were planned by program committee members Mae Pelissier and Liz Anderson. Gale Wright replaced Liz in August 2007.

Special occasions included music at our chicken pie December Holiday luncheon, a sing a-long Christmas music was provided by the Dump Ladies of Cummington. Invited guests from Southampton COA attended. Our November luncheon included the fourth grade students, their grandparents, and their teacher, Greg Kerstetter as our guests. The entertainment was Davis

Bates, a well known story teller. His program was enjoyed by 4th graders and seniors as well. The title of his presentation was *Celebrating New England Songs and Stories for Everyone*. In July, we held a very enjoyable volunteer recognition and picnic at the home of Dan and Jean Webster. Over 50 seniors and friends were honored for their year of service. Several Westhampton people were speakers or entertained at our meetings including a talk by Dave Braastad and Ralph Hancewicz about their trip for Westhampton Katrina Relief Program. Mary Lee Morse who gave us an amusing talk on *Age is a Number and Mine is Unlisted* a program of related, tales and quotations of town folks. This was the fifth year in which a series of Westhampton talent took part in our programming.

We continued our contract with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, which allowed us to provide one-on-one transportation free of charge to 12 senior's needing doctors' and dentist appointments, grocery errands, etc. With Gerry Ognibene as dispatchers, 8 volunteer drivers gave a total of 157 hours, and drove 1,955 miles, an increase in last years usage. Drivers are paid for gas, but volunteer their time.

The Hilltown Elder Network (HEN), with Olga Hathaway as coordinator is now in its 16th year. In 2007, seven seniors were provided with 743.5 hours of light housework.

In November, Mary Montague, chairman conducted the flu clinic. A total of 92 flu shots to seniors were given by Mary Montague and Mary Powers. Thank you for the hours they put in to make it a success.

Ed Alward continued as editor of our quarterly newsletter, mailed to every Westhampton senior household. Frank Hathaway assisted by collecting and coordinating material, and several other volunteers helped prepare a high quality publication that has been recognized by the state office.

Barbara Snook organized a very successful annual garden tour in July, featuring five Westhampton gardens. The profits helped finance the two bus trips through the Friends of Council on Aging. In June we visited the Lupa Zoo in Ludlow. For our bus trip in October we enjoyed a visit to the Deerfield Museum and the Magic Wings Butterfly Museum where we enjoyed lunch as well.

The computers received from Smith College have been placed in senior's homes. This program, coordinated by Charles Ognibene, started in the fall of 2002, and originally intended as a six-month loan to each senior, has been very successful. Due to the generosity of the college in donating more computers, we have not had to take back any we have placed. We are very grateful to Bob Mller for checking out each computer, making any needed repairs and assisting with placement and instruction to members.

As always we are very grateful for the interest and support we receive from the church and from town and school officials. All seniors are welcome at our monthly meetings so please join us for great Westhampton cooks donating food and an interesting and enjoyable program after the luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Anderson, Chairman
Sally Lawton
Charles Ognibene
Ann Tracy
Pat Warren
Jean Webster
Gale Wright

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Blacksmith Shop Museum meets on the third Tuesday of each month from March to October. The Museum is open to the public on Sunday's from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. Member of the Historical Commission serve as hosts.

Committee members are Barbara Fuller, chairman, Bill Tracy and Tom Warren as co- secretaries, Dan Krug and we welcomed Freeman Scott as our new committee member.

Thanks again to Gerry Ognibene who has served as treasurer of the Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum for a number of years.

Barbara Pelissier has been an enormous help, although not a member of the committee. Her expertise on the history of the town and antiques has been a great help.

Also thanks to Liz Anderson who has worked tirelessly for many years for the museum. Most notably, for the Pomeroy Monument gift from the William Pomeroy family of Syracuse, NY. William is a descendent of Pliny Pomeroy 1734-1804 a resident of Hooker Road, in Westhampton. Liz organized the entire event and we are most grateful.

The Pomeroy Monument was installed on October 17th. Tom Hathaway poured the foundation, Frank Willard delivered the monument. It was dedicated at the Fall Festival on October 21, 2007 with members of the local Pomeroy family in attendance.

Yankee Magazine requested a photo of one article that we might like published in their magazine. Barbara Pelissier took several photos of the most interesting items that they could choose from.

Myron Strong (son of Esther Holway) has asked us to make a wish list for the museum, large or small, regarding a gift from his late mother Esther. We are in the process of getting estimates.

Tom Warren painted the large door in the side of the museum.

Bill Tracy sent a letter to the State Highway in acceptance of the bridge repair on North Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fuller, Chairman

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council was allotted \$4000 by the State Cultural Council to fund grant applications in FY08. In addition to the state's money, \$75 was appropriated by the Town at the Annual Town Meeting and other funds were available from donations and bank interest providing the Council \$4475 to expend in FY08.

One (1) PASS Grant Application and twenty-one (21) LCC Grant Applications were received in the amount of \$10,570. The Council funded eleven (11) of these requests. The Westhampton Cultural Council has been streamlined by the State (members have completed special training) and all functions are now processed online. There is no longer a wait for approval of applications by the State and grant money is automatically deposited into the Town's treasury for immediate use.

The following applications were approved for FY08:

- 1) Westhampton Elementary School PASS Grant Application to attend the performance of Max and Ruby at the UMASS Fine Arts Center, \$465
- 2) Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries for Hilltown Sunday Music Series, \$60

- 3) Phil Buck, Buck Expeditions' Explorers Program, \$500
- 4) Friends of the Westhampton Library Summer Reading Program: Caravan Puppets, \$350
- 5) Friends of the Westhampton Library Summer Reading Program: World of Owls, Wingmasters, \$275
- 6) Town of Westhampton Concert Music Series, \$800
- 7) Bob Thomas, Larry Blotter and The Sorcerer's Poem, \$450
- 8) Hilltown Community Development Corp (HCDC), Hilltown Spring Festival, \$300
- 9) Scott Jameson, Magic & Juggling Performance at the Library, \$475
- 10) Jay Mankita, The Veggie Voyager Returns, \$400
- 11) Kate O'Connor, A Beautiful Future, \$400

The Westhampton Cultural Council currently is a group of six individuals with diverse interests and backgrounds. Five members are required in order to be in compliance with the state's requirement to receive grant monies. Several members will be transitioning off the Council in the year ahead, thus, we are seeking new members, as well as input and fund raising opportunities. Because the Council only meets several times a year, there is not a major time commitment involved. The Council tries to present a well balanced distribution of projects/art music/theatre in order to benefit all residents of Town. Please contact the Selectboard if you wish to be appointed to the Council, or with any ideas for future grants and awards. October 15, 2008 will be the last day to submit an application for the FY09 grant cycle. Grant applications may be forwarded to the Cultural Council in care of the Selectboard, 1 South Road, Westhampton, MA 01027.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson, Chair
Ron Baer Ellice Gonzales
Jacqui LaFrance Gale Wright
Robbie Merrington

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Westhampton Memorial Library is overseen by an elected six-member Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet in the library on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Their duties include setting policy, overseeing finances and the physical plant, supervising and evaluating the library director, and addressing planning and development issues.

The staff and Trustees make the best use possible of the 2,500 square feet of space available in the Library. With our dedicated and innovative staff and with the support and suggestions of our patrons, we provide a very high quality of service.

Here are some highlights of the past year:

- Our holdings have increased in every category as compared to fiscal year 2006. We now have 10,570 books, 686 audio books/music CDs, and 850 movies. Because of our limited space, the staff regularly donates still useful but unused material to local and international charities to make room for new items.
- Our circulation remains very strong. In FY 2007 we circulated 23,000 items.
- The significant increase in the use of interlibrary loans, many using the Internet based C/WMARS system, continues. We received 2,721 items for our patrons from other libraries and provided 3,061 to other systems. Once again, the demand for our books from other towns is an indication that although our collection is small, it is attractive.
- The library was open 1,003 hours during the fiscal year. Our Tuesday and Thursday morning openings, concurrent with business hours at the Town Hall, have proven to be very popular. The library is staffed by a full time,

qualified, and certified director, Carolyn Keating, who has overseen the library's operations for the past 17 years with a high degree of professionalism. Hilary Nolan serves as the library's staff assistant and is responsible for the preschool storytimes and other children's programming as well as general library duties.

Westhampton remains high (fourth, in fact) on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' new construction waiting list. There is no indication when the Legislature will act, although library construction money is included in one of the Governor's pending capital bonding bills. When enacted, the State will contribute 60% of the cost of the new building. We are extraordinarily impressed by the efforts of the Friends of the Westhampton Library to raise the funds to support new construction. The Friends have purchased the former Westhampton Congregation Church parsonage, across the street from the library, and that land and part of the existing structure will be the site of the new facility when it is constructed. The Building Committee has met as needed.

The Friends are also a critical source of continuing financial support and general encouragement to the library. Their energetic and creative fundraising efforts, including the very popular book and plant sale each May, have helped to purchase necessary equipment and to defray some emergency costs. The Trustees very much appreciate the Friends' dedication and commitment to the library.

The library is used as meeting space on a regular basis by a number of groups, including the Library Building Planning Committee, Friends of the Library, the Conservation Commission, Council on Aging garden tour committee, Finance Committee, and the Open Space Committee.

The Trustee's budget request for the coming fiscal year reflects what we believe to be the minimum needed for us to continue to provide quality services and to maintain our State certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Fleischner, Chair
Jim LaBerge, Secretary
Ray Giordano, Treasurer
Andrea Belanger
Janus Ternullo
Gail Haggerty
Board of Trustees

REPORT OF LIBRARY FUNDS

Library funds in the custody of the Town Treasurer at the beginning of fiscal year 2007 were as follows:

Gift accounts:	\$10,838.28
Capital account	\$32,967.52
Grant Match	\$11,096.48

During fiscal year 2007, gifts in the amount of \$3,362.04 were received. Gifts were received from the Friends of the Library, Renee Schultz, The Fantasy Salvage Fund, EnviroSmart, and Jonah & Barry Zimmerman. Gifts were also received in memory of Ella Clapp, Veronica Patenaude, John Lynes, and Marilyn Cervilli. Expenditures to support the library totaled \$4,800.60, leaving a balance in the gift accounts of \$9,399.72 at the end of the fiscal year.

Interest on the capital account totaled \$1000.93, leaving a balance of \$33,968.45 at year-end.

\$747.66 was spent from the Town's match for the Library Grant, with \$10,348.82 remaining.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons
Town Treasurer

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2006*

The Westhampton School Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Westhampton Elementary School. The meetings begin at 7:00pm. The committee members are David Antosz, Chairperson; Tarin Weiss, Vice-chairperson; and Charleen Diggins, Secretary. Some member also represents Westhampton on the following committees: Hampshire Regional School Committee, Charleen Diggins and Administrative Advisory Board, David Antosz.

The Westhampton School Committee acts as the board of directors for the elementary school. The committee's responsibilities include budget, contract negotiations with the teachers association, local education policy decisions and to hire, supervise and evaluate the superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for hiring, supervising and evaluating the principle and the principle carries that responsibility for the teaching staff. The State Board of Education establishes the general spending levels, statewide education policy and curriculum.

Each year we review and re-evaluate the Pre-school Program at the school to assure it meets all the needs of the children in our community. Dr. Ripa has been our new superintendent for a year now and has been looking at developing a way to have the math curriculum in the district align for easier transition of students to the junior high level. We have continued to monitor the lunch program and are pleased with the choices of fresh vegetables 2-3x/week. We have reviewed and updated policies. We have implemented a wellness policy at the school. We are beginning to implement procedures to support the wellness policy to help increase the wellness of all students. Our biggest challenge continues to be the budget. With the past three years being a challenge, we have worked hard to maintain the high standards at the school. We continue to receive quarterly reviews the expenses and budget. We are working hard this year to maintain the services that are available at the school. Our goal is to attempt to maintain the excellent level of education at the

school in lieu of the tight state budget, each year is getting more difficult to reach that goal.

We continue to look into areas of the curriculum that may need changes or updates that we feel will benefit the children of Westhampton. This year we will be concentrating on a review of the math curriculum. The school has selected Math as their school wide theme. They have had many math related activities at school and have sent home different review problems for families. We welcome any suggestions for change or improvements by area residents.

The students have been working been busy with many projects , exploring the arts with different shows provided by the PTO and have continued to participate in the joint effort of helping families impacted by Katrina. The after school program has continued to be a great success. The Bonnie's Program provides great opportunities for kids after school and during school breaks, many children benefit from the activities scheduled during the year. After school, students have the opportunity for homework help, music lessons, and karate.

The Westhampton Elementary School continues to be utilized by the community and youth groups. We have a very supportive PTO and WeCare committee that help to provide school activities and create a safe school environment. It is this dedication to the school that helps make it a great learning environment. We appreciate all the work that is done by the committees and all the volunteers that help during the school year.

Respectfully submitted

Charleen Diggins, Secretary

David Antosz, Chairperson

Tarin Weiss, Vice-chairperson

*This report was omitted in error last year.

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2007

The Westhampton School Committee acts as the board of directors for the elementary school, overseeing the budget, teacher contract negotiations, local education policy, and the hiring and evaluating of the superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for hiring, supervising and evaluating the principal. The principal oversees the teaching staff. The State Board of Education establishes the spending levels, education policy, and curriculum.

The Westhampton School Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The committee members are David Antosz, Chairperson; Tarin Weiss, Vice-chairperson; and Bill Seney, Secretary. David Antosz also serves on the HRHS Administrative Advisory Board.

This year we bid goodbye to former school committee members Charlene Diggins and Maureen Dempsey. We would like to thank them for their years of dedicated and valued service. Welcome to newly elected members Bill Seney and Tarin Weiss.

Westhampton Elementary School welcomed two new teachers this fall. Jen Thomas is now teaching the kindergarten class and John Bye is teaching the third grade. Teachers have ratified and are now working under a new contract. Several teachers attended a restraint and de-escalation training class at the Norris school in Southampton.

Principal Deane Bates has completed the new curriculum guide for WES and will implement this new curriculum in September 2008.

School of choice continues to be a topic of discussion for the committee and several open meetings on this topic have been held this year. The school security system and fire alarm has

been up-dated and Principal Bates is exploring the cost of a new “buzz-in” system for the main entrance.

The committee continues to work closely with the PTO. A new school marquee is now in place at the driveway entrance thanks to the generous financial support of the PTO. Principal Bates and the PTO continue work on the long-term computer technology project for the school.

In the on-going effort to control energy costs, an energy audit will be performed. The results of this audit will determine whether WES could qualify for assistance from local energy providers. These results will be available in November of 2008.

School infrastructure concerns are increasing as the building ages. In particular, multiple boiler repairs have been necessary and a complete re-piping of the water feed and storage system was required this year. Nearly all of the gutters on the building are gone due to sliding snow. This snow also has caused concern about air intake to the classrooms because it has built up around the air intake vents. This accumulating snow also presents a possible safety concern because, in some areas, it has reached all the way to the roof line in front of classroom windows.

Westhampton Elementary offers an excellent educational experience to all of its students. Considerable effort was required to complete on the 2008-09 budget. To maintain our current level of services the school committee recognizes there may be a need to approach the town for a possible override.

Respectfully submitted,

William Seney, Secretary
Tarin Weiss, Vice Chairperson
David Antosz, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Westhampton Elementary School

For the year ended June 30, 2007

REVENUE

Appropriation	\$ 1033112
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EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$ 852,534
Services	\$ 151,484
Supplies	\$ 25,158

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,029,176
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Closed to General Fund	\$ 3936
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VOCATIONAL EXPENSES

APPROPRIATION

Transportation	\$ 27,324
Tuition	\$ 147,065
Transfer in	\$ 7,626

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 181,103
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APPROPRIATION OVER

EXPENDITURES	\$ 912
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REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Hampshire Regional School Committee, which serves the five town regional secondary school district, has had a busy and productive 2007. The District, which includes the towns of Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg, has completed two and a half years under the leadership of Superintendent Barbara Ripa. As required, our superintendent was evaluated in December 2007 by the chairs of school committees she serves in our five towns. She has met and

exceeded our expectations and continues her efforts to insure quality education to the children of our communities. We are pleased to work with her to meet the educational needs of all students in the Hampshire Regional School District.

Setting the Regional budget for fiscal '08 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008) required cooperation between the Regional School Committee and elected officials of our communities. While State Chapter 70 and transportation funding increased from fiscal '07, each of our district towns faced financial difficulties to meet our budget request. Hampshire Regional continued sharing of District financial data with the towns to help local officials understand our financial situation and needs. The five towns continued to face their own budget problems and assistance was most difficult in Southampton and again in Williamsburg and Westhampton. The Regional School Committee adopted and the towns supported a final '08 budget of \$10,528,948 for the Regional School District which represented a 7.1% increase over the District's Fiscal '07 budget. This budget increase was driven by increased health insurance, energy and transportation costs. The continued increase in health care costs is a problem that extends beyond our District, but, we continue to seek ways to reduce increases in the future. The FY '08 budget permitted the hiring of a part-time language arts teacher to help improve the school's academic program. Planning for necessary educational change is difficult without resources. Our District is in competition with surrounding districts and area charter schools and must continue to find ways to reach for and maintain excellence in education if we are to meet the needs of our communities.

Hampshire Regional Principal Jim Connolly has continued to engage the community with issues concerning the future of education at Hampshire Regional. His vision encompasses the changing face of education in the early twenty-first century and the need to provide means to assist students with a greater variety of educational interests and a greater number of resources. In September 2007, Hampshire Regional began an advanced

placement course in biology and strengthened the internship program for students to merge work and academics with businesses in the greater community. The 24th annual History Day fair involved students in depth in research and presentation of information. The science fair stressed the scientific method with research on a hypothesis and an explanation of results. The Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) begun in 2006-2007 at Hampshire Regional has started to expand upon its role in linking families to life at Hampshire Regional with a Coffee House in May and a Potluck Social for seventh graders and their parents last fall. The Visual and Performing Arts Department continued to entertain parents, students and the public through its band, chorus and drama groups with a series of concerts and theater productions. Hampshire Regional continues to search for ways to use the internet to expand our student's education. The Laptops Enhancing Education Program (LEEPS) formally began in the fall of 2007 with 120 laptop computers purchased or leased by Hampshire families. This helps the school to better integrate technology into the classroom. The School Council, working with Dr. Connolly, surveyed the students in 2007. Overall, students reported being very pleased with course offerings and staff at Hampshire.

Our Hampshire Regional sports teams achieved further success on the field and in the gym. Both Boys and Girls basketball teams won their league titles. The Boys played for the Western Massachusetts Championship at the Cage at UMass coming just short of a victory. The Girls won their fifth straight Western Massachusetts Championship and played in the State Championship game for the fifth consecutive year. We thank Coach Jay Fortier and his student athletes for their hard work during this extended period of Girls' basketball success. Our Cheerleading squad was first in Western Massachusetts. Our Golf team was undefeated and league champion for the third year in a row. The Hampshire's Girls Soccer team was league champion and the State Sportsmanship award winner. Hampshire's Boys Soccer Team was undefeated winning both

Western Massachusetts and Division II State Championships. It was the Boys second State Soccer Championship.

The activities noted above and many other activities at Hampshire Regional helped the school to meet its mission to develop our student's knowledge and skills to enable them to be life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Hampshire's results on the state's MCAS examination continued to remain steady. While the results are generally very good, the school must meet the needs of all its students. Wherever students are identified as needing improvement, Hampshire through tutoring and additional academic efforts works to help them meet the MCAS requirements. The School Committee has continued its commitment to maintaining our school's mission of a balanced, broad and humane education for every student

The year 2007 was a time of continued challenge for Hampshire Regional and your School Committee. The Committee continues to work to provide our children with the best education we can in difficult economic times. We value the excellent work of the Regional School staff and administration. Our teachers and counselors, nurse, aides, custodians, cafeteria staff, coaches and other support personnel and our administrators, at Hampshire and in the Superintendent's Office, are our partners and colleagues in the success of our school. We continue our work with them and with the students, parents and residents of the five towns to meet the challenges of 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Brousseau, Chair,

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The schools in the Hampshire Regional School District have had another exciting and productive year. Teachers and staff worked hard to provide quality instructional and extra-curricular programs for our students, while maintaining safe, positive and productive learning environments within our schools. The following report will highlight some of the programs, events, measurements and activities undertaken as we strive to educate today's youth for tomorrow's world.

Annually, administrators identify district goals to provide direction for curricular work and professional development. The 2006-2007 District Goals were:

Goal # 1: Develop and implement district-wide (Pre-K – 12) curriculum (content, instruction, and assessment) and a supportive organizational process to continually improve student performance.

Goal #2: Promote professional development as a means of improving instruction and student achievement including content, instruction, assessment, mentoring and coaching.

Goal #3: Support the use of technology, differentiated instruction, diversity and community service as instructional strategies to reach all learners.

Goal #4: Facilitate ongoing and open communications with parents and our communities.

Goal #5: Provide for the safety and welfare of all students and staff.

In the spring of 2007, district administrators worked with teachers to identify math materials for Phase II of our district-wide math initiative. Following the decision, materials were ordered and a series of training workshops were scheduled. Teachers in grades Kindergarten through Grade 3 began the implementation of the second and final phase of the new program in September 2007.

Central Office welcomed its new Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Regina Pool joined our staff in July and quickly began the process of getting to know our five districts and the curricular needs of our students and staff. Among her first initiatives, Regina got involved in the math implementation and training, and established Grade level meetings to provide quality discussion time for teachers across the district. She is also responsible for monitoring the administration of district-wide math assessments, which will be administered three times each year to provide useful information feedback regarding instruction and learning.

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One of our unsung programs is reading recovery and literacy support. We have a half time reading recovery teacher, Colleen Gilbert, who also provides literacy support in the afternoons. Charlotte Wood provides literacy support as well. These two individuals work closely with classroom teachers to identify ways to support English Language Arts (ELA) instruction in and out of the classroom. In my end-of-the-year meeting with staff I was quite impressed with the results of Ms. Gilbert and Ms. Wood's work with students. I encouraged them to continue to work with our staff to identify students and high leverage activities to help students gain the skills and information necessary to perform at high levels academically.

One of the areas where we made a lot of progress was in how we approach curriculum in a unified and coherent way. Some of our release time was spent reviewing of our AYP status and the implications associated with being on the list of schools not making adequate yearly progress. Additionally, our staff reviewed the last four years of MCAS scores and discussed strategies for improving both English language arts and math. From these discussions we developed our initial AYP language arts improvement plan. The process itself allowed our staff to see educational accountability from a different perspective. It was also an excellent opportunity for teachers to talk among grade levels to develop strategies for school-wide improvement. The

staff was very helpful in analyzing problem area and helping to develop strategies for improvement. From that discussion, I worked with staff to develop our AYP improvement plan.

Another accomplishment was the school-wide theme. This year's theme was "math a magic". All of the staff planned cross grade math activities. Parents and community members were featured at monthly all-school meetings sharing how they used math in their everyday life. Many people from the community had the opportunity to come in and discuss or demonstrate how math affected their lives. At the end of the school year we had a Math-a-Magic Day for families, community members and students to take part in different math experiments and games. At the end of the day we lined up the entire school end to end to see how far we would reach around the athletic fields. It was a great way for our student and teachers to experience working with groups they wouldn't normally would not get a chance to work with.

One of the new programs at Westhampton Elementary was its after school enrichment program. We developed an after-school math program designed to help students develop and practice math skill. Greg Kerstetter, our fourth grade teacher, did much of the preliminary organization and planning. He recruited Andria Wolf from the learning center, Ginny Brown, former third grade teacher, and the principal. We met with students a few days each week after school to provide additional math instruction and support. Other enrichment activities included a coffee house where fourth graders shared some of their writing with parents and friends. Other enrichment activities offered throughout the year included fire safety, babysitter training, after-school cheerleading, and Bonnie's Program with karate and cheerleading.

Jan Skoglund retired after 12 years of service to the Westhampton Elementary School. In the fall we honored Jan by planting a tree at the school. Jennifer Thomas has been hired as Jan's replacement. Jennifer has worked at the school for the last 11 years as a classroom and special education aide. She recently

finished her degree and teaching certification requirements. Bridget King resigned her position as the third grade teacher. John Bye replaced Bridget in the third grade.

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
October 1, 2006 Enrollment

GRADE	PRE-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
ENROLLMENT	21	15	15	16	20	20	21	21

WESTHAMPTON STUDENTS AT HAMPSHIRE
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
October 1, 2006 Enrollment

GRADE	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
ENROLLMENT	19	24	16	13	19	18

School Committee members for school year 2006-2007
David Antosz, Chair
Charlene Diggins
Tarin Weiss

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to two of our sports teams. Kudos to Coach Moynahan and the Boys' Varsity Soccer Team. For only the second time in Hampshire Regional history, the boys from Hampshire came home with the State Championship capping off a 20-0-1 undefeated season! Congratulations also go out to Coach Mike Dorunda and the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team for winning the 2007 MIAA State Sportsmanship award for Soccer!

The middle school teams, structured in blocks of time, continued to provide students with needed support as they transition to HRHS. In recent years we have increased the number of team building activities for middle school students and continue to work on providing interdisciplinary activities for our students.

The Life Skills program at HRHS continued to serve a portion of our student population who in past years were placed in out-of-district settings for their secondary education. Several middle school students joined the program in the fall.

Mapping our curriculum began with a focus on updating all course outlines. Delayed start time was used to update curriculum. With a new Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment coming on board, we look for support in our continued efforts to map curriculum.

The accomplishments from the introduction of Layered Curriculum are multi faceted. One of the obvious benefits was the success students and teachers who used Layered Curriculum reported in surveys. We were able to discuss how we model life long learning and support our peers who are willing to try researched-based methods for improving instruction and assessment. The student surveys conducted in the spring of 2006 and the winter of 2007 gave us a great deal of data which will be used in the coming school year to improve our programs in the school setting.

As part of its community outreach efforts, Hampshire Regional once again held its Youth Nights during the basketball season. The Athletic Director reaches out to the sending town youth organizations to arrange the night. Students who participate are given free admission to the game and a ticket to receive a free snack from the Booster Table. During the half time break, the elementary students are gathered on the basketball court and introduced. It is a nice way to bring our youth into the school before they become students here and to recognize our “future Raiders.”

Kelly Carpenter, World History and U.S. History teacher at Hampshire Regional High School, was the proud recipient of the Grinspoon Award for 2006-2007. The Grinspoon Award recognizes outstanding teachers for their tremendous commitment and impact on children in their schools in the Spring

of 2007. Candidates must demonstrate professionalism through excellence in teaching practices, his/her own professional development, good attendance on the job, and his/her demonstration of collaboration and cooperation. Kelly embodied these characteristic and more. Kelly connects with her students and makes learning fun. She also was co-chair of the steering committee for the New England Association for Schools and Colleges (NEASC) of Hampshire Regional. She is in the Professional Teacher Education Program at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY.

Staff update: Science teacher Pam Sartori retired in January. Pam was replaced by Billy Broadus. Social studies teacher Bruce Wickman retired at the end of the school year. Wick was replaced by Chris Butler. Also retiring at the end of the school year was math teacher Deb Kirk. Deb's replacement was Nicole Rainville. Science teacher Tara Kisiel moved on at the end of the year. She was replaced by Kira Jewett. English teacher Rob Norton decided to return to the island of Nantucket to teach high school English. Rob was replaced by Courtney Cottrell. Tracey Pinkham is out on a one-year maternity leave and was replaced by Kate Burke. Anita Goddard, librarian, retired at the end of October and was replaced by Andrea Belanger. Desi Vega has returned to his PE position after a one-year leave of absence. Additional new staff members include Tony DelSignore, English; David Powers and Stephanie Puc, both Paraprofessionals.

A special thanks goes to the following staff members:

- Jan Sniffen for his work with middle school teams to develop team-building activities into the middle school curriculum.
- Todd Bryant and Pat Donahue for their efforts introducing and facilitating the use of the Layered Curriculum approach in HRHS classrooms.
- Mark Folta for his ongoing efforts to improve school climate at HRHS.

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

October 1, 2006 Enrollment

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12
Enrollment	126	149	114	119	102	112

School Committee Members for 2006-07

Donald Abel	Charlene Diggins	David Nardi
Michael Beattie	Maureen Groden	Jennifer Poetter
Brad Brousseau, Chair	Steven Holt	David Pesuit
Patricia Colson-Montgomery	Patricia Kirouac	Katherine Smith
Nancy Curtis	Sherrie Marti	Donald Snyder
Lori Devine	Joseph Moynahan	Angela Valinski

Pupil Services Annual Report 2006-2007

During the 2006-2007 school year the Pupil Services Department of the Hampshire Regional School District provided support services to approximately 297 special needs students, 6 English Language Learners, 150 504 Accommodation Plan students, and 6 homeless students. Services were provided within the district's five public schools as well as in specialized programs in the region. These services consisted of educational assistance and remediation aligned with the established regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and policies for working with students with limited English proficiency. Direct services included the following: speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision and mobility therapy, counseling, and behavior management. The district also funded day and residential special education programs for 21 eligible students.

Special education students receiving services in the district were provided access to each school's curriculum. The least restrictive environment concept, supported by IDEA and considered best practice, provides the goal of special education within our schools. This inclusion model was adhered to as much as

possible. There was ongoing decision making at annual review meetings, focusing on determining eligibility and meeting the program needs of eligible students. Agreements between parents and the school regarding programming were made in approximately 350 TEAM meetings. There were no TEAM meetings in which there was a need for mediation or intervention by the Bureau of Special Education Appeals. Staff efforts resulted in student success within the district’s special education services. Assistance from teachers, administrators, support staff, paraprofessionals, and consultants contributed to the gains made in well-run inclusion-based services.

Of special note is the Life Skills program at Hampshire Regional High School serving students from 7th grade to age 22 with cognitive impairments and multiple disabilities. Participation in this program provides students with ongoing access to a pragmatically based academic program as well as education in skills needed for daily living, vocational and social success. Students are placed in community based jobs with coaches that provide them with guidance and support, allowing for immediate feedback while learning in an environment where skills are practiced in “real time”. The success of this program has led to other districts interest in accessing “slots” to tuition students in to our program.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Ripa,
Superintendent

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
FISCAL 2007

REVENUES

Assessments

Chesterfield	\$	511,488
Goshen	\$	336,384

Southampton	\$ 2,913,173
Westhampton	\$ 973,513
Williamsburg	\$ 1,280,916
Total Assessments	<u>\$ 6,015,474</u>

Intergovernmental

Chapter 70	\$ 2,676,377
Transportation	\$ 378,193
Foundation Reserve Grant	-
Circuit Breaker	\$ 55,478
School Choice	\$ 554,057
Charter School	\$ 103,274
Medicaid	\$ 65,102
Excess & Deficiency	-
Total Intergovernmental	<u>\$ 3,832,481</u>

Interest and Other

Interest	\$ 40,932
Refunds & Rebates	\$ 1,727
Total Interest & Other	<u>\$ 42,659</u>

TOTAL REVENUES

\$ 9,890,614

EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$ 321,202
Instruction	\$ 4,691,104
Special Education	\$ 510,944
Other School Services	\$ 875,914
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 648,512
Retirement Contribution	\$ 257,996
Employee insurance	\$ 1,559,757
Other insurance	\$ 26,508
Debt service	\$ 39,506
School Choice/Charter School Tuitions	<u>\$ 763,750</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$ 9,695,193

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures

\$ 195,421

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia D. Landers
Business Administrator

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The focus of the Hampshire Council of Governments continues to be to help local governments save money and solve problems through regional cooperation - as it was set out in the Council Charter - and a commitment to the concept of local control over local affairs. The combined dues for the Council of Governments in Fiscal Year 2007 were \$37,206. All current Council members voted to continue their membership with Council for the next four years and received a reduced annual assessment. The purpose of the reduction was to reduce the financial burden to the municipalities while increasing the stability of the Council membership. It is the intent of the Council to increase revenues from a variety of sources - increasing revenues from Hampshire Care, property rentals, and sale of electricity to towns and businesses - to offset the reduced assessment. The dues collected help support Council programs, services, and assistance to a variety of programs. Westhampton pays \$2028 for its share of the membership dues.

The Council's Electricity Program, named Hampshire Power in 2007, continues to grow. Thirty-four towns and districts in Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden contracted with the Council for electricity supply for their municipal facilities. In addition, five businesses in Hampshire County signed supply contracts with the Council. In Fiscal Year 2007, this program began offering a Real Time Rate in addition to the Profit Sharing Rate. Those customers who chose the Real Time Rate realized a savings each month. The Real Time Rate is the actual hourly market rate for each hour's usage during the meter cycle. An administrative charge is added to this rate. The first customer to choose this plan, the Town of

Belchertown, realized a saving of \$132,600 for 10 months of supply during Fiscal Year 2007. Those customers who contracted with the Council for a profit sharing rate in Fiscal Year 2007 shared \$47,631 in profit rebates. Customers who opt for the profit sharing rate pay the utility prices and share in profits which the Council hopes to earn by buying directly from the electricity spot market. Future goals include extending to Berkshire and Worcester Counties, offering green energy plans, and ultimately, supplying residents through a municipal aggregation. Westhampton has participated in the electricity program since its inception and has shared in the profit rebates.

The Cooperative Purchasing program, now in its 27th year, coordinates and administers a formal bidding process on behalf of Council departments, municipalities, school districts, and human service agencies and miscellaneous governmental entities throughout the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire County region. Buying in bulk generates added savings over lone bidding efforts while complying with state procurement statutes and eliminating duplication of administrative work. The total purchasing volume for goods and services for Fiscal Year 2007 was \$4.4 million with a projected savings of \$842,688. The town of Westhampton as well as the schools participate in many of the cooperative purchasing programs realizing savings on goods ranging from asphalt to school supplies.

In a year when many towns are facing double-digit rate increases in health insurance premiums, our towns once again held their costs to single-digit increases. The Hampshire Councilors serve as the trustees of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, a cooperative effort to provide health and life insurance with excellent benefits at competitive rates. An Insurance Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of all participating units, meets regularly to discuss problems and possible solutions and to explore new ideas. The Trust manages a self-funded group of health insurance products. The collective premium for the Trust was \$32.2M. Through the efforts and expertise of the Trust management, the volume of participation in the program, and the participation of the

town representatives on the Advisory Board, the Insurance Trust is successful at managing costs while providing excellent benefits. Westhampton is a member of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust and is represented by Margaret A. Parsons.

The Regional Services Department develops regional approaches to problems shared by Hampshire County municipalities. The department secures surplus federal equipment for various Massachusetts municipalities and state entities. The current net savings of property delivered to member communities for Fiscal Year 2007, after fees and delivery charges, totaled \$17,710.83. Member communities receive a discount on the fees, as well as the right of first refusal on nicer pieces of equipment obtained through the surplus program. Regional Services continued its oversight of the Hampshire Inspection Program, which provides building inspection and zoning enforcement services. Emergency inspection services are also available for other towns not in the program for an hourly fee. Department personnel prepared two successful grant applications, obtaining funding for the towns of Huntington and Pelham for fire apparatus and equipment, valued at \$250,000. Finally, in addition to preparing a wage and salary survey of Hampshire County municipalities, the Department has been cooperating with the Electricity Department in performing account analysis and estimated electricity cost savings to help towns analyze their electricity purchase options, as well as salesmanship. Though the Town of Westhampton is not a participant in the Hampshire Inspection Program, we have utilized their services when our building inspector was unavailable.

The elected Councilors provide public oversight for Hampshire Care in Leeds, a rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility owned and operated by the Council and County since 1914. The facility provides for 120 patients, with over 250 admissions per year from all the towns in the County. The majority of patients are admitted for rehabilitative care following an accident or illness. Hampshire Care also provides post hospital treatment, and long-term nursing services. The facility has an exemplary record of performance on State and Federal surveys, and rates highest in the County on State

Survey results. (See Massachusetts Department of Public Health "nursing Home Report Card.") As a government owned, non-profit facility, Hampshire Care has no owners or stockholders to report to and concentrates all of its resources on offering the best patient care possible. All revenues for the facility's operation come from patient services. Hampshire Care also has roughly the same profile of Medicare, Medicaid, and private patients as the average long-term care facility in Massachusetts. The Hampshire Council of Governments is very sensitive to its responsibilities as a government entity to provide services for the communities it serves. The Council would like to be able to expand the public services being offered on the campus of Hampshire Park, where Hampshire Care is located. Hampshire Care also provides a substantial number of good jobs, with 120 full-time equivalents and over 150 employees. These employees, as with the patients, almost all are residents of the surrounding towns and villages. The total financial impact on the local economy is about \$8 million dollars. As a government entity Hampshire Care is challenged by the need to provide employees with better benefits than private sector facilities, while receiving lower reimbursement because of the high quality of patient care. Several of the wonderful and dedicated employees of Hampshire Care hail from Westhampton.

One of the less noted benefits to local communities is the impact that Hampshire Care has on the cost of retirement benefits. Retirement costs are based on total number of current employees, and benefits are paid only to employees who stay over ten years. Few of the nursing employees remain long enough to vest in the system so they can eventually collect benefits, yet Hampshire Care contributes based on the current number of employees. Costs for most communities are substantially lower because Hampshire Care is part of the Hampshire County Retirement System.

The Council has continued to provide tobacco prevention efforts in the region since 1994. Currently there are two programs run by the Tobacco Free Network. Through the Youth Access to Tobacco prevention program we are working in 33 towns in Franklin, Hampshire, and Worcester Counties. These communities do not

have local youth access to tobacco regulations or are not currently enforcing their regulations. By conducting compliance checks, doing retailer and community education, and working with local boards of health we hope to reduce the sale of tobacco to minors and increase compliance with the state law. In addition, the Network is working in Holyoke to develop a community smoking intervention plan. These programs are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Since the passage of the state-wide smoke free work site law in July of 2005, efforts here and across the state have been working on preventing youth from using tobacco, helping smokers who are interested to quit, protecting people from second hand smoke, and working to end health disparities of tobacco.

In addition to the various departments, programs, and services, each Councilor attends a monthly Full Board Meeting as well as a Standing Committee Meeting. Each Committee has oversight of specific departments and programs and continues to look for ways to increase revenue and provide services. The Council is currently working on proposals for development of the Hampshire Park area of Hampshire Care. Ideas discussed include the potential for the addition of a charter school, a housing program, and other developmental ideas to enhance the property and raise revenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

In Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007) Hilltown CDC moved from the predevelopment phase to begin construction on four major multi-year projects. These include our largest

affordable housing project to date, a \$2.8 million 11-unit cluster condominium project on Laurel Road in Haydenville. Hilltown CDC also began construction on a new \$1.2 million Public Safety Building for the Town of Plainfield, a \$123,000 roof and windows replacement project at the Hillside Terrace senior housing facility in Cummington, and a \$336,000 acquisition and renovation of a vacant tenement building in Huntington, which will provide four 2-bedroom apartments for affordable rental housing. For each of these projects, Hilltown CDC worked on behalf of towns we serve to assemble the financing package of needed grants and loans, to purchase land and buildings when needed, and to manage the public bidding and construction or renovation process.

Hilltown CDC's Small Business Development program took a big step forward with the hiring of Seth Isman as our Economic Development Director. With 25 years of retail experience owning and managing the Mulberry Tree toy store in Northampton, he has provided valuable one-to-one consulting, along with our team of consultant specialists, to 56 Hilltown small businesses. The CDC also won a \$71,000 grant from the Mass. Dept. of Business & Technology (DBT) to expand our small business technical assistance and training workshops. We provided 69 workshops on 21 subject areas to 222 local business people. In addition to our CDBG-funded Micro-Enterprise program, we can now serve businesses with up to 20 employees. Our efforts to encourage a "buy local" ethic through our Hilltown Business Directory also received a boost with the hiring of Jennifer Peotter as our part-time Business Program Assistant.

Our Homebuyer Training, Housing Rehabilitation and Social Service programs continued on a steady course, guided by experienced and long-serving staff members. 82 households received individual Homebuyer counseling, 63 attended First Time Homebuyer workshops and 6 received cash assistance for down payment and closing costs. Hilltown CDC's Housing Rehab program provides zero percent interest deferred payment loans to income eligible homeowners for use in making a wide variety of repairs. A total of \$325,000 in loans were made to

rehabilitate 16 homes in Goshen, Plainfield and Worthington. Our Hilltown Elder Network (HEN) program provided 7,930 hours of in-home chore services to 100 low income Northern Hilltown elders, and 13,400 miles of escorted transportation.

In addition, Hilltown CDC secured CDBG funds and oversaw three other social service programs meeting pressing community needs. The Health Outreach Program for Elders (HOPE) provided 1,000 hours of specialized in-home nursing care to 250 home-bound elders. The Families Together program provided parenting education and training programs to 50 Hilltown families. Both programs are administered by the Hilltown Community Health Center. The Hilltown Food Pantry, administered by the Northampton Survival Center, provided 57,047 pounds of food to 264 eligible individuals via 2,157 visits to the Goshen pantry site.

In February, 2007, Hilltown CDC submitted a \$1.2 million regional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application on behalf of Chesterfield and five neighboring communities which included funds for: housing rehabilitation, first time homebuyer counseling and down payment assistance, purchase of an ambulance for the Town of Plainfield, and funding for four social service programs: Hilltown Elder Network (HEN), Health Outreach Program for Elders (HOPE), Families Together, and the Hilltown Food Pantry. The CDC also re-submitted an \$800,000 application on behalf of the Town of Worthington to fund renovations to The Maples senior housing complex. (Note: Funding was awarded for the \$1.2 million Chesterfield Regional CDBG grant, but was rejected again for the Worthington application.)

Hilltown CDC helped the seven Northern Hilltowns of Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington to prepare and update their Community Development Strategies. We secured funding and began a Hilltown Affordable Housing Planning Project to locate and study potential sites for senior housing in Chesterfield and

other communities. We secured funding and began a study to explore interest in developing a regional senior center. And we continued to support regional efforts to bring high speed broadband internet services to our unserved and under-served communities. We also organized a Hilltown Spring Festival on May 19, 2007 and celebrated the CDC's 25th anniversary with 400 Hilltowners on a rainy but fun day at the Cummington Fairgrounds.

Hilltown CDC also completed many staffing transitions and new hires. Marge Allard resigned as Business Program manager in August, 2007, after eight years of service. She was replaced by Seth Isman in September and in May we hired Jennifer Peotter as his part time assistant. Mary Ellen Dearstyne completed ten years as Housing Rehabilitation program manager in May, 2007 and moved over to serve as our part-time Grant Accounting Manager while launching her new period furniture business in Williamsburg: The Pilgrimage. Hilltown CDC hired Sarah Sczebak in June, 2007 as Housing Rehab Program manager. Finance Director Catherine Roegge took maternity leave and returned in a part-time role. Trish Robertson of Chesterfield resigned as our Green Thumb office assistant after over 20 years of service. We hired new office assistant Paul Fennessey of Chesterfield through the Senior Service America program. We also recruited two new Directors to the Board: Don Boisvert of Goshen and Bob Heath of Huntington. Don Boisvert is the Director of Western Mass. Business Networking International. Bob Heath is an assessor and select board member for the Town of Huntington.

Thanks for the opportunity to work with your town to help strengthen our Hilltown communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Baker, Executive Director
Hilltown Community Development
Corporation

SALARIES

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFICIALS	FY07	Proposed 08
Selectboard Chairman	1300	1325
Others	1100	1125
Board of Assessors Chairman	2600	2625
Others	2350	2375
Board of Health Each +\$20/hr Perc/TitleV	400+\$20/hr Perc/TitleV	425 & \$20/hr Perc/TitleV
Town Clerk	6562	6726
Tax Collector	7420 + fees	7605 + fees
Treasurer	10085	10337
Auditor	250	250
Moderator	250	250
School Committee Chairman	280	305
Others	250	275
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Accounting Officer	10085	10337
Veterans Agent	1254	1279
Administrative Assistant	14391	14750
Assessor Assistant	15/hour	18/hour
Assessor's Secretary	1550	1575
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	50	50
Building Inspector	6000	6000
Wiring	20/inspection	30/inspection
Plumbing Inspectors	20/inspection	20/inspection
Sanitation Inspector	25/inspection	25/inspection
Election Workers	7.50/hour	7.50/hour
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A	19.68	20.18
Grade 1	18.68	19.18
Superintendent	49905	51277
LANDFILL Caretaker	10.00/hour	10.25/hour
LIBRARY Director	37230	38347
Staff Librarian	12.02/hour	12.38/hour
Custodian	8.52/hour	8.77/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian	10.00/hour	10.50/hour
POLICE CHIEF	18963	19437
Officers – Regular	12.50/hour	12.50/hour
Sergeant	14.50/hour	14.50/hour
Court	15.00/hour	15.00/hour
FIRE CHIEF	6000	6150
EMERGENCY MGT DIR		300
CEMETERY CARETAKER	4957	5081

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2009

ACCOUNT	VOTED F2008	PROPOSED F2009
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Counsel Fees	10000	10000
Moderator	250	275
Selectboard Salary	3500	3575
Selectboard Expense	3600	3600
Administrative Assistant	14391	14750
Auditor Salary	250	275
Accounting Officer Salary	10085	10337
Accounting Office Expense	2050	2190
Assessor Salary	7300	7375
Assessor Expense	8250	8550
Assessor Assistant	16000	18000
Assessor Secretary	1550	1600
Treasurer Salary	10085	10337
Treasurer Expense	4050	4465
Tax Collector Salary	7420	7605
Tax Collector Expense	8998	9810
Town Clerk Salary	6562	6726
Town Clerk Expense	3300	3370
Clerk, Board of Registrars	50	50
Conservation Commission	265	265
Zoning Board Expense	650	650
Planning Board Expense	200	200
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	4360	3700
Highway Salaries	171500	176000
Highway Materials	61125	62650
Road Machinery	23100	23686
Road Machinery Fuel	27650	35700
Snow Removal	50000	92423
Road Machinery Buildings	19500	24820
Pickup (Article 13)		37000
Snow Plow (article 14)		8500
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS (Article 5)	1022189	1079945
HRHS Capital (Article 6)	82325	81304
Vocational Tuition (Article 9)	206000	228408
Vocational Transportation (Art. 10)	40950	40950
Elementary School (Article 8)	1100553	1185442
School Committee Salary	630	780
Library	65691	67486

VETERANS

Veterans Expense	300	300
Veterans Agent Salary	1254	1304
Memorial Day	100	100
Cultural Council	75	75

CEMETERIES

Cemetery Salary	4957	5081
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PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROP

Police Chief	18963	19437
Police Department	24630	27691
Police Vehicle	36000	0
Fire Chief	6000	7250
Fire Department	15750	34850
Safety Complex	17420	15355
Safety Complex Doors		
Emergency Medical Services	7480	7480
Inspector Salary	17420	15355
Inspector Expense	500	1500
Tree Warden Expense	2000	2000
Dog Officer	250	250
Animal Inspector	600	650

HEALTH & SANITATION

Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop. (Art. 16)	4979	4979
Board of Health Salary	3550	2700
Board of Health Expense	69315	72159
Recycling Box (Article 17)		6000

DEBT & INTEREST

Int. Short Term Debt	2070	713
Short Term Debt	26000	26000
Long Term Debt	155000	160000
Interest Long Term Debt	65250	60140

UNCLASSIFIED

Insurance & Bonds	59000	59000
Town Offices	11770	13720
Council on Aging	1100	1200
Historical	200	1200
County Retirement	95978	94303
Council of Governments	2028	2028
Unemployment (Article 18)	12800	13000
Group Insurance	275000	289000
Medicare	18500	18500
Reserve Fund	<u>5000</u>	<u>5000</u>

TOTAL**3951548 4247041**

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT

MAY 10, 2008

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L. which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2009, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2009, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Hampshire Regional District Administration to enter into a five year contract consisting of a three year base contract with the option to renew

each year for two additional years to provide transportation to Hampshire Regional High School, Chesterfield Goshen Regional School, Southampton Public Schools, Westhampton Public Schools, Williamsburg Public Schools, and vocational transportation or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$106,000 from the sale of the Center School to the Library Project, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a pickup truck for the Highway Department, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a snowplow for the Highway Department, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds, due to the town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, voted in the Acts of 2008, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Westhampton Town's share of expenses of continued participation in the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a recycling container for the Transfer Station, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, or by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Overlay Surplus to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to designate one (1) board or officer as the permitting authority under Chapter 82A, Section 2 to issue permits for the excavation of trenches on privately owned land and for the excavation of a public way (520 CMR 14.00 Excavation and Trench Safety); or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General bylaw by amending Section 5 The Selectboard : Article 4 Power of Appointment, by inserting the words “trench permitting authority” as follows: “4-5-1 The Selectboard shall annually appoint: a Town Counsel; a Superintendent of Streets; a Fire Chief; a Police Chief; Registrars of Voters; Election Officers; a trench permitting authority; all inspectors; and all such other appointed officers and employees of the town for whom no other appointive authority is provided by general law or by-law.”, or take any other action in relation thereto.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 10th.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE
ANNUAL MEETING.

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